U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPOSITORY 378

WILDERNESS INVENTORY

OREGON AND WASHINGTON

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISIONS

NOVEMBER 1980

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OREGON STATE OFFICE
P.O. Box 2965 (729 N.E. Oregon Street)
Portland, Oregon 97208

November 14, 1980

This report describes my final decisions on the wilderness inventory of approximately 5.7 million acres of public land in Oregon and almost 15,000 acres of public land in Washington. Seventy-six areas in Oregon, two areas in Washington, and one area on the Oregon-Washington state line are designated wilderness study areas. In addition, one existing wilderness study area in Oregon has been enlarged. The study areas in Oregon contain about two million acres and those in Washington about 6,510 acres. Approximately 3.7 million acres are eliminated from further wilderness review because they are not wilderness in character. Wilderness inventory decisions for other public lands have been announced in previous reports, and a summary of those earlier decisions is included in the introduction to the accompanying report.

The decisions in this report are refinements of proposed decisions we announced last March. Many of you took time last summer to send us comments on the proposed decisions. Several hundred persons also attended meetings held in the two states to discuss the inventory. Many of the comments you gave us contained information about specific areas, and we found that information very helpful as we developed the final decisions.

With these decisions, we have essentially completed the inventory phase of the Bureau's wilderness review in the two states. We have deferred final decisions on three inventory units on the Idaho State line in Malheur County because the Idaho State Director has not completed the inventory on contiguous lands in Owyhee County. Except for the three Malheur County units, the inventory is completed on other BLM lands in Oregon and Washington.

In the next step in the wilderness review, we will now begin to consider alternative land uses for the wilderness study areas. BLM district managers will use the Bureau's land use planning system to conduct the studies, and at the conclusion of the studies they will give me their recommendations on whether the study areas should be designated wilderness. Subsequent recommendations will be made by me, BLM's Director, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President. The President's recommendations will go to Congress, which must make the final decisions on which study areas will be designated wilderness.

In the near future, we will be issuing guidelines on how the wilderness studies will be conducted and a schedule of when they will occur. The guidelines will inform you of how and when you can most effectively participate in the studies and influence the recommendations ultimately sent to Congress.

If you have any questions about the wilderness review, please do not hesitate to let us know. Addresses and telephone numbers of BLM offices in Oregon and Washington are listed at the end of this report.

Thank you for your interest in the public lands.

Sincerely yours,

William G. Leavell
State Director

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

WILDERNESS INVENTORY

OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Final Intensive Inventory Decisions
November 1980

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Report

This report and the accompanying maps describe the final decisions in the Bureau of Land Management's intensive wilderness inventory in Oregon and Washington. Seventy-nine inventory units or portions of units are identified as wilderness study areas (WSAs), and other units or portions of units are eliminated from further wilderness review. In addition, one existing wilderness study area in Oregon has been enlarged. Proposed decisions concerning the inventory units reported on here were published in March 1980. A 90-day period for public review and comment followed the March announcement. This report contains summaries of the comments received and explanations of any changes of decisions. The March report stated that final decisions would be announced in September 1980. However, on direction of BLM's Washington Office, the scheduled announcement date was changed to November because of funding constraints.

The remainder of this introduction provides a review of the wilderness inventory in Oregon and Washington and a preview of the study phase of the wilderness review. A number of general issues concerning the final decisions are also discussed in the sections preceding the descriptions of individual inventory units.

Summary of Inventory Results

With the announcement of the decisions in this report, the wilderness inventory in Oregon and Washington is essentially completed. Final decisions for three inventory units on the Oregon-Idaho state line in Malheur County have been deferred because the initial inventory decisions for contiguous lands in Idaho have been appealed. Except for those units, final inventory decisions have been made for all BLM-managed public lands in Oregon and Washington which were eligible for wilderness review. In western Oregon, approximately 1.8 million acres of revested Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands (collectively known as "O&C" lands) which are suitable for commercial timber production are exempted by law from wilderness review.

For most of the public lands in Oregon and all of the public lands in Washington, the inventory was done in two steps called the initial inventory and the intensive inventory. In Oregon, some of the lands included in the intensive inventory were inventoried on an accelerated schedule. In addition, the wilderness inventory of some lands in Oregon was conducted on separate schedules because of the need to know whether proposed energy projects would conflict with wilderness values. Each of these parts of the inventory is described in the following section of this report.

The results of the inventory are summarized in Table 1. The outcome of the inventory in Oregon and Washington is depicted in Figure 1.

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS INVENTORY RESULTS

OREGON	Acres
Wilderness Study Areas	
Decisions announced in this report - 77 areas	2,049,000
Previously announced decisions - 10 areas	442,300
Subtotal	(2,491,300)
Lands Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	
Decisions announced in this report	3,680,900
Previously announced decisions	7,512,900
Subtotal	(11,193,800)
O&C lands exempted from wilderness review	1,759,200
Lands where decisions have been deferred	280,200
Total public lands managed by BLM	15,724,500
WASHINGTON	
Wilderness Study Areas	
Decisions announced in this report - 2 areas	6,500 *
Lands Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	
Decisions announced in this report	8,400
Previously announced decisions	295,300
Subtotal	(303,700)
Total public lands managed by BLM	310,200

* Includes 975 acres in a third area on the Washington-Oregon state line.

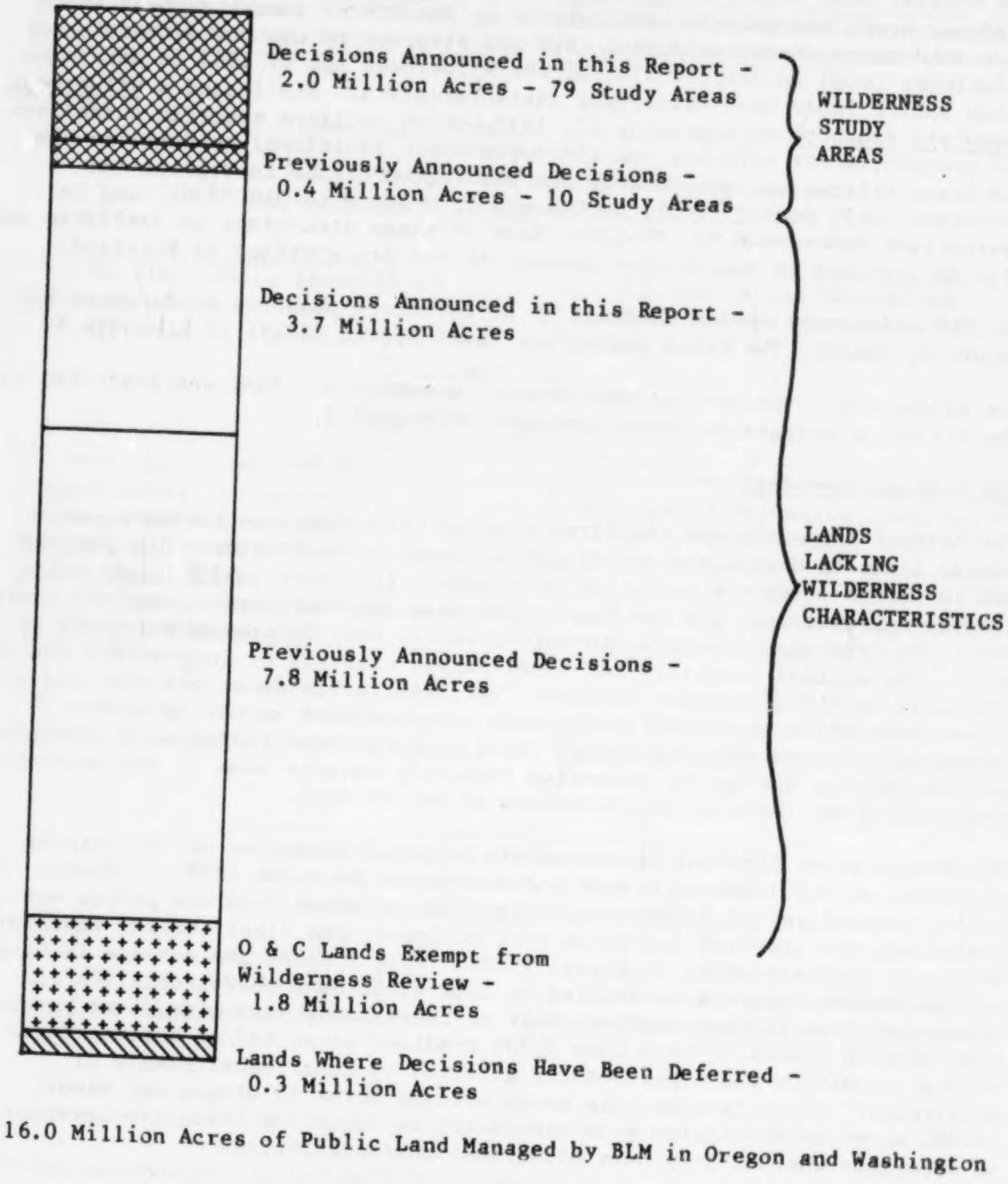


Figure 1. The Outcome of the Wilderness Inventory in Oregon and Washington.

The Wilderness Review in Oregon and Washington

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 required a review of roadless areas and islands administered by the BLM to identify those which have wilderness characteristics. BLM was directed to use the definition of wilderness found in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 to determine which public lands have wilderness characteristics. BLM issued a Wilderness Inventory Handbook on September 27, 1978, which outlines specific guidelines and procedures for carrying out the inventory. Additional guidance to the BLM state offices was provided by the Washington Office in Organic Act Directive (OAD) Number 78-61, in Changes 1, 2 and 3 to OAD 78-61, and in Instruction Memorandum No. 80-236. Each of these directives is available and will be provided to you on your request to the State Office in Portland.

The BLM wilderness review consists of an inventory phase, a study phase and a reporting phase. The three phases are described in detail in Appendix A.

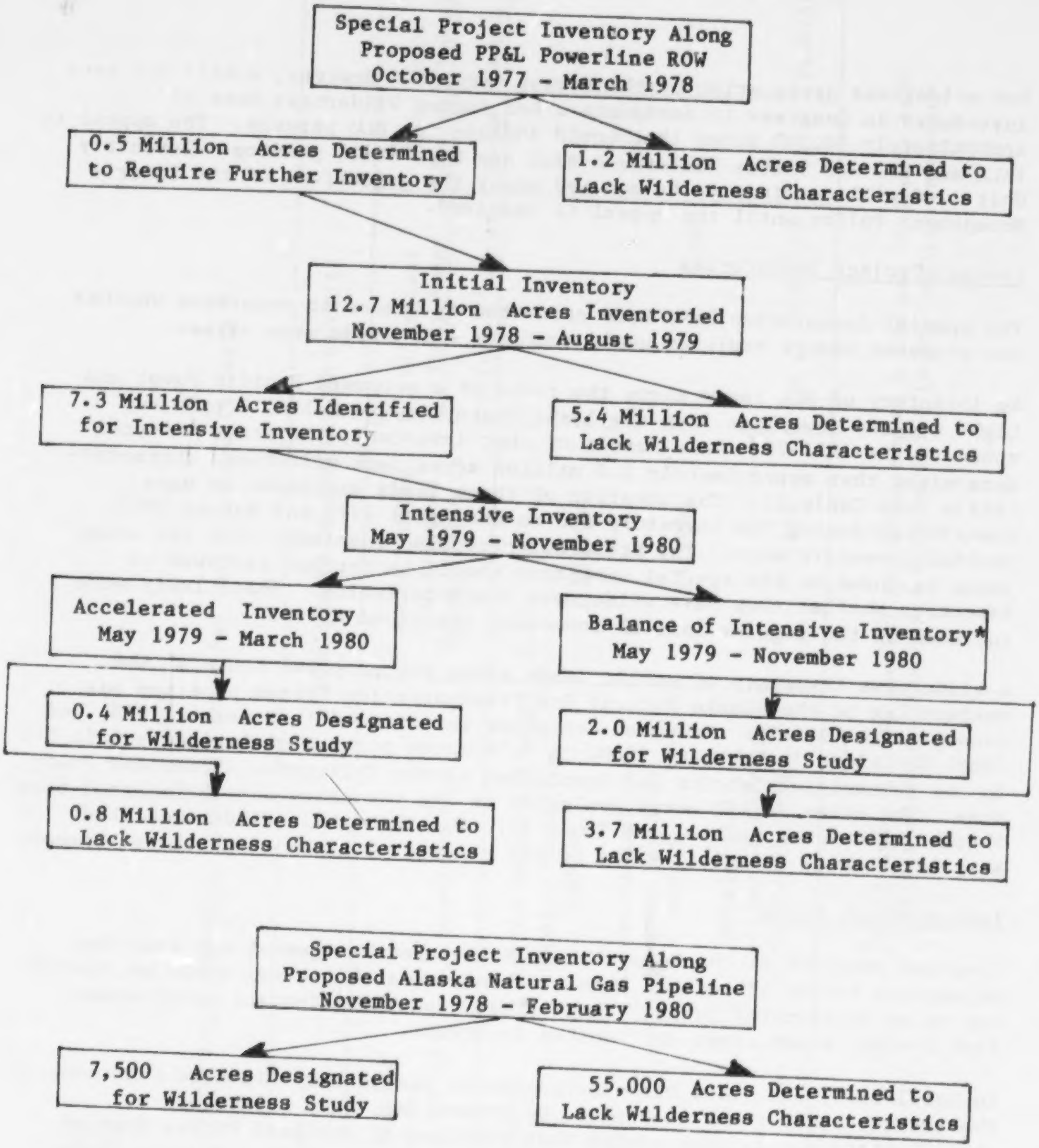
The wilderness inventory included several components. They are described in the following paragraphs and illustrated in Figure 2.

The Initial Inventory

The initial inventory was the first step of the wilderness review on most public lands in Oregon and on all public lands in Washington. Its purpose was to define inventory units and to identify (1) those public lands which clearly and obviously did not have wilderness characteristics, and (2) those which required more intensive inventory before that determination could be made. The initial inventory was based almost entirely on information readily available in BLM's district offices. Very little fieldwork was done and any areas about which there was uncertainty were included in the intensive inventory. It was recognized that there would be some revisions of inventory unit boundaries during the intensive inventory because some of the available information was known to be incomplete or out of date.

The Oregon State Director announced his proposed decisions on the initial inventory of BLM lands in Oregon and Washington in April 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed. Information received from the public was evaluated, the proposed decisions were reviewed, and final initial inventory decisions were announced in August 1979. Table 2 shows the acreage in Oregon and Washington that was determined to lack wilderness characteristics and eliminated from further review. Most of these lands were eliminated because they were in tracts of less than 5,000 roadless acres and/or because their natural condition was significantly affected by human developments or activities. Slightly more than seven million acres in Oregon and about 14,000 acres in Washington were identified as requiring intensive inventory to determine whether they have wilderness characteristics.

Appeals. The decision to eliminate Inventory Unit 11-6, Greyback Glades, from further wilderness review was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The unit contains two parcels of public land (one of 120 acres and one of 600 acres) in the Medford District. The two parcels are adjacent to a Siskiyou National Forest RARE II area which was not recommended


Special Project Inventory Along
Proposed PP&L Powerline ROW
October 1977 - March 1978
0.5 Million Acres Determined to Require Further Inventory
1.2 Million Acres Determined to Lack Wilderness Characteristics
Initial Inventory
12.7 Million Acres Inventoried
November 1978 - August 1979
7.3 Million Acres Identified for Intensive Inventory
5.4 Million Acres Determined to Lack Wilderness Characteristics
Intensive Inventory
May 1979 - November 1980
Accelerated Inventory
May 1979 - March 1980
Balance of Intensive Inventory*
May 1979 - November 1980
0.4 Million Acres Designated for Wilderness Study
2.0 Million Acres Designated for Wilderness Study
0.8 Million Acres Determined to Lack Wilderness Characteristics
3.7 Million Acres Determined to Lack Wilderness Characteristics
Special Project Inventory Along
Proposed Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline
November 1978 - February 1980
7,500 Acres Designated for Wilderness Study
55,000 Acres Determined to Lack Wilderness Characteristics

* Decisions deferred on 0.3 million acres.

Figure 2. The Wilderness Inventory Components in Oregon.

for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. However, a bill has been introduced in Congress to designate a Red Buttes Wilderness Area of approximately 84,500 acres that would include the BLM parcels. The appeal to IBLA and the Red Buttes Wilderness bill are both still pending. Inventory Unit 11-6 will continue to be managed under the guidelines of the Interim Management Policy until the appeal is resolved.

Special Project Inventories

Two special inventories have been conducted in Oregon to determine whether two proposed energy projects would conflict with wilderness values.

An inventory of BLM lands along the route of a proposed Pacific Power and Light Company powerline from the Idaho State Line to Malin, Oregon was conducted in 1977-78. As a result of that inventory, the State Director determined that approximately 1.2 million acres lack wilderness characteristics (see Table 2). The location of these lands was shown on maps distributed during the inventory and on the April 1979 and August 1979 initial inventory maps. The State Director also concluded that the other lands included in the special inventory should be further reviewed to determine whether they have wilderness characteristics. These lands were included in the regular initial inventory described above.

A wilderness inventory of public lands along the proposed route of the western leg of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System pipeline was conducted in 1978-79. Proposed decisions were issued in November 1978, and final decisions in February 1980. A 7,560-acre portion of Inventory Unit 5-1 in the Prineville District was identified as the Thirtymile Wilderness Study Area. The other 54,990 acres evaluated in the inventory were eliminated from further wilderness review (see Table 2). The Thirtymile Wilderness Study Area is shown as an existing WSA on the accompanying map of northeast Oregon.

Instant Study Areas

Congress required in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that the wilderness review of certain primitive and research natural areas be carried out on an accelerated basis. These areas are called instant study areas. Five instant study areas are located in Oregon.

In April 1979, the State Director announced preliminary findings that none of the instant study areas in Oregon, by themselves, have wilderness characteristics. He also stated that portions of the Lost Forest Instant Study Area in the Lakeview District and the Western Juniper Instant Study Area in the Prineville District should be re-evaluated during the intensive inventory of the larger inventory units within which they are located. After comments received during a 60-day comment period were considered, the State Director adopted the preliminary findings as final and announced them in August 1979.

TABLE 2

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED INVENTORY DECISIONS (Not Included in Table 5)

INITIAL INVENTORY		ACCELERATED OR SPECIAL INVENTORIES					
State	Areas Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Inventory Name	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Wilderness Study Areas		Units Under Protest/Appeal	
				Units	Acres	Units	Acres
Oregon	5,439,169	Pacific Power and Light Company Powerline * OREGON	1,238,500				
Washington	296,283	Alaska Natural Gas Company Pipeline OREGON	54,990	1	7,560		
		Accelerated Inventory of 30 Units in Southeast Oregon	773,374	9	434,779	2	164,825

* All areas in the special PPL inventory that did not obviously lack wilderness characteristics were included in the regular inventory.

Portions of the Lost Forest Instant Study Area are contained in Inventory Units 1-9, 1-12, and 1-24. Explanations of the final decisions on the intensive inventory of those units are included in the Lakeview section of this report. The Western Juniper Instant Study Area is part of Inventory Unit 5-5. An explanation of the final decision on that unit is included in the Prineville section.

The Accelerated Intensive Inventory

All inventory units not eliminated from further wilderness review in the initial inventory have been intensively inventoried. Thirty inventory units in southeast Oregon were intensively inventoried on an accelerated schedule, while the remainder are the subject of this report.

The inventories of 16 units in the Lakeview, Burns, Vale, and Prineville Districts were accelerated because the units contained parcels of land identified for possible land exchanges with private parties or the state. Public lands in wilderness study areas cannot be exchanged. By accelerating the inventories, BLM was able to determine at an earlier date which exchange negotiations could continue. The inventories of 13 units in the Drewsey Resource Area of the Burns District were accelerated in order to identify any conflicts between wilderness values and proposed range improvement projects. The inventory of one unit in the Prineville District was accelerated in order to have the proposed decision available to the public during the comment period for a Forest Service Draft Environmental Statement concerning an adjacent RARE II area.

The purpose of the intensive inventory is to determine which BLM lands have wilderness characteristics and to identify them as wilderness study areas, and to eliminate from further review those lands which do not have wilderness characteristics. In contrast to the initial inventory, the intensive inventory included on-the-ground field evaluations of the wilderness values of each inventory unit.

The proposed decisions on the intensive inventory of the 30 units in southeast Oregon were announced on October 4, 1979. A 90-day period for public review and comment followed. Information provided by the public was evaluated, the decisions were reviewed and final decisions were announced in March 1980. Eight areas containing approximately 431,700 acres were identified as wilderness study areas. Approximately 776,500 acres were eliminated from further wilderness review. The decisions affecting 13 inventory units or subunits were protested. As a result of a protest the decision to eliminate Inventory Unit 5-14 from further review was reversed. All other protested decisions were re-affirmed. The nine wilderness study areas identified during the accelerated intensive inventory are shown as existing WSAs on the map of southeast Oregon that accompanies this report. Table 2 shows the final acreage figures for the accelerated inventory.

Appeals. The decisions to deny the protests concerning two WSAs have been appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The WSAs are 2-81L and 2-82H in the Burns District. They are shown as existing WSAs on the map accompanying this report. If the decisions are changed as a result of IBLA affirming the appeals, the public will be notified.

The Study Phase

This report completes the inventory phase of the wilderness review in Oregon and Washington. The objective of the study phase, which comes next, is to determine which wilderness study areas will be recommended as suitable and which as unsuitable for designation as wilderness areas. These determinations will be made through the BLM's land use planning system. The purpose of the studies will be to consider all the resources, uses and values within a study area, to identify and resolve conflicts between different resource uses or values, and to determine whether an areas's most appropriate use would be wilderness. Information pertaining to study phase issues which was received from the public during the inventory, as well as other data gathered by BLM will be used in the studies. In addition, the land use planning system that will be followed includes opportunities for public participation. The results of the studies will be wilderness suitability and nonsuitability recommendations that will be sent to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will forward his recommendations to the President who will make recommendations to Congress. ONLY CONGRESS CAN ESTABLISH A WILDERNESS AREA.

Guidelines for wilderness studies are currently being developed in BLM's Washington Office, and a draft is scheduled to be released this fall. A schedule for studies of particular WSAs in Oregon and Washington will be developed later this year.

Interim Management Policy

In Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress required BLM to manage public lands in a manner which does not impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness. Lands are released from this interim management requirement when it is determined through the initial or intensive inventories that they do not have wilderness characteristics. Any areas which have been eliminated from further wilderness review, but which are under protest or appeal, will also remain under interim management until the protests and/or appeals are resolved. Areas with wilderness characteristics (that is, wilderness study areas) remain under the interim management policy until Congress either makes the areas part of the National Wilderness Preservation System or decides against wilderness designation. BLM issued a brochure in December 1979 which explains how the interim management policy will be carried out. You may obtain a copy by calling or writing any of the BLM offices listed in Appendix D.

Final Decisions on Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington

This section introduces the final intensive wilderness inventory decisions for 313 inventory units in Oregon and Washington. The following subsections present discussions of a number of general issues and summaries of public comments and the decisions. The unit-by-unit descriptions and explanations of each decision then follow in separate sections for each BLM district.

The on-the-ground field evaluations of the intensive inventory units were carried out during the summer and fall of 1979. The proposed decisions were announced on March 27, 1980, and were described in Part II of a report that was published on that date. A 90-day public comment period followed. During that time 16 public meetings were held throughout Oregon and three were held in Washington. Field evaluations of information provided by the public were carried out during the summer of 1980. The proposed decisions were then reviewed and the final decisions made in preparation for this report.

In carrying out the intensive inventory, the determination of whether an area should be identified as a wilderness study area or eliminated from further wilderness review is based on an evaluation of an area's wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. According to that definition, a wilderness study area must (a) be a roadless area containing at least 5,000 contiguous acres of public land or be large enough to be effectively preserved and managed as wilderness, or be a public land island of any size; (b) be generally free of human developments or the effects of human activities; and (c) offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

The proposed decisions announced in March 1980 were that 70 areas and islands in Oregon containing approximately 1,750,000 acres, one island in Washington and one area in both Oregon and Washington be identified as wilderness study areas. Approximately 4,206,000 acres were proposed for elimination from further wilderness review.

The final decisions are that 76 areas and islands in Oregon, one area and one island in Washington, and one area in both Oregon and Washington be identified as wilderness study areas. In addition, one existing wilderness study area in Oregon is enlarged. These areas contain approximately 2,049,000 acres in Oregon and 6,510 acres in Washington. Approximately 3,680,900 acres in Oregon and 8,421 acres in Washington do not have wilderness characteristics and are eliminated from further wilderness review. The wilderness study areas and the areas eliminated from further review are shown on the accompanying maps.

In addition to the maps accompanying this report, all of the inventory units affected by these decisions are shown on larger scale maps. These maps are available on request from the Oregon State Office in Portland (for all inventory units) or from the various district offices (for inventory units in each district only). Office addresses and telephone numbers are listed in Appendix D. Be sure to specify the inventory unit number or numbers so the correct map or maps will be sent.

The final decisions reported here are scheduled to be announced in the Federal Register on November 14, 1980, but publication may be a day or two before or after that date. The decisions will go into effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register unless amended by the State Director on the basis of new information received as a result of publication of this report, or unless a protest is filed. Any person wishing to protest any of the decisions reported on here must file the protest with the Oregon State Director within 30 days of publication of the announcement in the Federal Register. The protest must specify the area or areas to which it is directed, it must include a clear and concise statement of the reasons for the protest, and it must include data to support the reasons.

Only the decisions announced in this report are subject to protest. The protest periods for previously announced decisions have expired.

Public lands eliminated from further wilderness review will be released from the interim management policy guidelines and managed under other multiple use authorities. The interim management policy guidelines will continue to apply to the wilderness study areas and to any areas under protest or appeal.

Acreage and Boundary Revisions

In some cases, inventory unit acreages in this report are different from those reported in the August 1979 report on the final decisions for the initial inventory or in the March 1980 report on the proposed intensive inventory decisions. Some of the differences are due to recalculations of the acreages and corrections of earlier preliminary measurements. Other differences are the result of revisions in boundaries. During the field evaluations, it was learned that some boundary roads were not shown in the correct locations. In some cases, correction of the maps added acres to the units, and in others the units' acreages were reduced.

Another type of correction occurred when the inventory team learned that a unit boundary shown on the initial inventory maps did not meet the road definition used in the wilderness review. (The road definition is included in Appendix A to this report and in the Bureau's Wilderness Inventory Handbook.) This type of correction is unlike the one mentioned above in that, in this case, the boundary road shown on the previously published maps does not exist. In some units, this type of correction resulted in two inventory units being combined. In others, it resulted in land which had been released from further wilderness review in the initial inventory being brought back into the wilderness review process.

In several units, roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the units into two or more subunits. In some units "roads" forming subunits have been reexamined and found to be ways, and the subunits have been combined.

Boundary revisions made since the proposed intensive inventory decisions were announced in March 1980 are described in the unit descriptions later in this part of the report. Boundary revisions made after the initial inventory but before the proposed intensive inventory decisions were made are described in the March 1980 report.

Interstate Units

Twelve units in the intensive inventory include contiguous public lands in Oregon and an adjacent state. One of the interstate units, 2-81, the Pueblo Mountains, was among those inventoried on an accelerated schedule. The other 11 interstate units are included in this report, and are listed in Table 3.

The district offices which administer lands in each interstate unit coordinated their wilderness inventories. The proposed decisions described later in this report relate to all public lands in the interstate units. The Idaho and Nevada State Directors received public comments on the proposed intensive inventory decisions for public lands in those states during approximately the same period as Oregon. A public comment period for proposed decisions on public lands in California outside of the California Desert was conducted during the summer of 1979. The California State Director reannounced the proposed decisions on the interstate units in 1980 so the public would have an opportunity to comment on proposed decisions on lands in both states at the same time.

Units Adjacent to Idaho Units Under Appeal. A number of initial inventory decisions in the Boise District in Idaho are under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Therefore, the Idaho State Director has not issued proposed intensive inventory decisions for those units. Three of those units are contiguous with inventory units in the Vale District. The affected units in Vale are 3-159, 3-194 and 3-195. Unit 3-159 is also contiguous with an inventory unit in Nevada. Though the proposed decisions for these three units were announced in March 1980, final decisions will not be made until the Idaho appeal is resolved and the Idaho Sate Director is able to proceed with the intensive inventory of the units now under appeal (see Table 4).

When the Idaho State Director announces proposed intensive inventory decisions on the three Idaho units, the Oregon State Office will reopen the public comment period for the three Oregon units so the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the interstate units as complete entities. Final decisions will be announced concurrently by the two states (also Nevada in the case of Unit 3-159).

Oregon Coastal Islands

BLM administers hundreds of small islands off the Oregon Coast. Amoung them are 29 islands or groups of islands containing approximately 113 acres which Congress designated wilderness in 1978. The BLM State Director and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regional Director have proposed that the administration of most of those islands be transferred to the FWS and that they be included in the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

TABLE 3

INTERSTATE UNITS
Public Land Roadlesss Areas Administered by More Than One State

Unit Number	Unit Name	Final Decision				Total Acres All Public Lands
		Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)		Lacking Wilderness Characteristics		
		Acres in Oregon	Acres in Adjoining State	Acres in Oregon	Acres in Adjoining State	
OR-1-126 CA-020-1010 *	Coleman Valley Macy Flat			23,640	13,060	23,640 13,060 36,700
OR-1-157 CA-020-1005 *	Coleman Valley West Coleman Ranch			10,000	13,005	10,000 13,005 23,005
OR-1-164 CA-020-1004 *	Snuff Twelve Mile Creek			1,440	14,690	1,440 14,690 16,130
OR-2-78D OR-3-153 NV-020-859	Red Mountain Disaster Peak Disaster Peak	2,720 13,300	11,622			2,720 13,300 11,622 27,642
OR-2-78E NV-020-859J	Red Mountain Disaster Peak			5,460	540	5,460 540 6,000

* All of CA-020-1010 and CA-020-1005, and the eastern portion of CA-020-1004 are lands located in Nevada but administered by the Susanville District, California.

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Unit Number	Unit Name	Final Decision				Total Acres All Public Lands
		Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)		Lacking Wilderness Characteristics		
		Acres in Oregon	Acres in Adjoining State	Acres in Oregon	Acres in Adjoining State	
OR-2-80 NV-020-609	Sand Hills Maggie Creek			14,990	20,594	14,990 20,594 35,584
OR-3-159 ID-106-70E NV-020-811	Tent Creek Tent Creek Tent Creek	DECISION DEFERRED				32,440 3,400 10,680 46,520
OR-3-172 NV-020-809	Deer Flat Deer Flat			11,200	500	11,200 500 11,700
OR-3-191 NV-020-210	Cairn "C" Cairn "C"			7,960	3,700	7,960 3,700 11,660
OR-3-194 ID-106-48A	Lookout Butte Lookout Butte	DECISION DEFERRED				65,640 39,200 104,840
OR-3-195 ID-106-48B	Owyhee Canyon Owyhee Canyon	DECISION DEFERRED				182,090 33,710 215,800

TABLE 4

DECISIONS NOT YET ANNOUNCED

Unit Name and Number	Total Public Land Acres in Roadless Area (Excluding Inholding)	Size of Area for which Decisions have Not Been Announced (Acres)		
		Initial Inventory	Intensive Inventory	
			Accelerated	Other Units
OR-11-6 Greyback Glades	720	720 1/		
OR-2-81L NV-020-642 Pueblo Mountains	77,400		67,430 2/	
OR-2-82H Rincon	103,850		97,395 2/	
OR-3-159 ID-106-70E NV-020-811 Tent Creek	46,520			32,440 3/
OR-3-194 ID-106-48A Lookout Butte	104,840			65,640 3/
OR-3-195 ID-106-48B Owyhee Canyon	215,800			182,090 3/

1/ Unit under appeal as a result of initial inventory decision.

2/ This portion of the unit is under appeal as a result of a previously announced final decision to identify a WSA. The unit is also included in Table 2.

3/ Unit crosses the state boundary. The decision on the acreage in Oregon has been deferred pending resolution of an appeal on the contiguous public lands in Idaho.

The BLM-administered, off-shore islands not designated wilderness in 1978 were included in the island inventory units listed in the April and August 1979 initial inventory reports and shown on the initial inventory maps. (Fish Rock, Unit 12-15, located just south of Bandon, was inadvertently omitted from the initial inventory maps.) They include:

Salem District: Inventory Units 8-9 through 8-24;
Eugene District: Inventory Units 9-2 through 9-6; and
Coos Bay District: Inventory Units 12-5 through 12-14.

The BLM State Director and FWS Regional Director have also proposed that most of the islands in these inventory units be transferred to the FWS and included in the wildlife refuge. The wilderness review of islands proposed for transfer will be deferred until after the transfer has been completed and will be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some of the islands within six of the inventory units in the Coos Bay District are not proposed for transfer because they are readily accessible to people on foot at low tide and are not valuable habitat for marine mammals and birds. They are:

North Sisters Rocks - part of Unit 12-8;
Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks - Part of Unit 12-10;
Lone Ranch Rocks - part of Unit 12-12;
Harris Island - part of Unit 12-13;
Zwagg Island and Table Rock - part of Unit 12-14; and
Fish Rock - Unit 12-15.

Final decisions on whether these islands should be wilderness study areas are described in the Coos Bay section of this report. The wilderness review of other islands in Units 12-8, 12-10, 12-12, 12-13, and 12-14--along with the review of the islands in the other initial inventory units--will be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service after the islands are included in the wildlife refuge.

Washington Marine Islands

BLM administers numerous small islands off the coast of Washington. Many of them are scattered among the San Juan Islands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) administers the San Juan National Wildlife Refuge which is made up of islands formerly under BLM administration. Many of the islands in the refuge were designated wilderness in 1973. Before the refuge was established, the FWS had the opportunity to request withdrawal of all BLM islands, but requested only those which FWS determined to have important wildlife values. The remaining small islands and rocks in the San Juans continue under BLM administration and are included in the intensive inventory reported here.

Other BLM coastal islands are in Clallam, Whatcom and Skagit Counties. They are also included in the intensive wilderness inventory.

General Summary of Public Comments

Nearly 4,500 comments on the proposed intensive wilderness inventory decisions were received at the state and district offices and at public meetings. Many of them referred to the wilderness review in general terms, while others contained statements or opinions pertaining to one or more specific inventory units. The unit-by-unit descriptions in this report contain summaries of all comments which addressed specific inventory units. The general comments and a number of procedural issues raised by the public are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Only those comments which contained substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in specific inventory units were considered in the review of the proposed decisions. The discussions of comments in this section and in the unit descriptions include brief reviews of all comments received, regardless of content.

The number of comments received is indicated in this report to inform you of the extent and nature of public response to the wilderness review. It should be emphasized, however, that the inventory decisions are based only on an evaluation of each unit's wilderness values. When a comment with information about the wilderness characteristics of a specific inventory unit was received, the information was evaluated, it was checked in the field if necessary, it was compared with what was previously known about the unit, and the proposed decision was reviewed. One comment with substantive information might lead to a determination that a decision should be changed, regardless of the number of comments supporting the proposed decision. Similarly, a proposed decision was not changed solely because people opposed it.

Public participation is an important component of the wilderness inventory, and much valuable information has been received from the public. However, the only circumstance in the inventory process in which the amount of public support, in addition to pertinent information, is a factor concerns inventory units of less than the 5,000 acres. One of the three exceptions to the 5,000 acre size criterion may occur when:

> The public has indicated strong support for study of a particular area of less than 5,000 acres and it is demonstrated that it is clearly and obviously of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management (Wilderness Inventory Handbook, page 12, emphasis added).

In all other cases the amount of public support and/or opposition is noted as an indication of level of interest and point of view, but not as a factor in making the inventory decisions.

Of the nearly 4,500 comments received, nearly 3,500 of them were form responses supporting what was referred to as the "Oregon Conservationist WSA Proposal". The "Proposal" was that 129 areas containing 6,516,000 acres be identified as wilderness study areas. None of the comments identified the areas referred to, or explained the basis of the acreage figure. The entire intensive inventory in Oregon has included about 300 inventory units with approximately 7.2 million acres. Therefore, the form responses could be considered only as indications of general support for wilderness.

Twenty-six other comments urged BLM to ignore the inventory unit boundaries and to inventory larger, physiographic entities which would contain many individual units. This has not been done because BLM's wilderness review mandate states that BLM is to inventory roadless public lands. See the subsection below on "Roads" for more information on this subject.

BLM received about ten additional letters expressing general pro-wilderness opinions.

The Burns District Office received 105 form responses which indicated opposition to any further wilderness areas in Harney County, Oregon. A few of these forms also indicated opposition to specific existing or proposed wilderness study areas.

One other comment, a petition with 54 signatures, indicated general opposition to wilderness, apparently because ultimate designation of an area as wilderness would essentially close the area to motor vehicle traffic. It should be emphasized that it is only final designation of an area as wilderness, by Congress, that results in closing an area to vehicles. At the present time, and continuing through the study phase, vehicle traffic is permitted in wilderness study areas so long as it does not impair the areas suitability for preservation as wilderness.

Roads. A number of comments made general or specific requests that BLM close roads and combine subunits or units or enlarge existing or proposed wilderness study areas. Other comments did not ask that roads be closed, but did ask that units be combined. However, Congress' mandate to BLM is to inventory existing roadless areas, and not to create roadless areas by closing roads. Inventory units or subunits are roadless areas; and if they were combined in the inventory, the areas inventoried could not be considered roadless.

The identification of roads and ways has been a continuing process in the inventory. When a public comment provided information suggesting that a specific way met the road definition, or that a specific road should be defined as a way, it was checked in the field. Changes in the road classifications are described in the unit narratives in this and previous inventory reports. The road definition used in the wilderness inventory is included in Appendix A to this report.

Non-Federal Lands. A number of comments expressed concern about the presence of State and/or private lands within proposed wilderness study areas. The BLM wilderness inventory does not apply to non-Federal lands. Private and State lands are not part of the wilderness study areas. The wilderness characteristics of Federal lands only have been evaluated. The status of State and/or private lands within a wilderness study area is not affected. The presence of non-Federal lands within an inventory unit has not affected the wilderness inventory decisions unless the amount and distribution of the non-Federal land breaks up the Federal lands in such a way as to significantly constrain opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation.

Another concern is that the identification of a wilderness study area will affect land owners' access to State and private lands within the WSA. A key point is that, at this time, BLM has identified wilderness study areas. This is not the same thing as Congressional designation of wilderness areas. The fact that BLM has identified a WSA does not necessarily mean that BLM or the President will recommend that it be designated wilderness, or that Congress will designate it if it is recommended.

The BLM's December 12, 1979, Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review recognizes the right of owners to obtain access to lands within study areas. This policy remains in effect for a study area until Congress decides whether to designate it as wilderness. The policy provides that motor vehicles may be used on existing access routes to travel to private lands so long as wilderness characteristics are not impaired. The Bureau is preparing policy and guidance regarding access to State school trust lands within study areas.

In the wilderness study--the next step in the wilderness review--one of the many issues that will be considered before a decision is made on whether to recommend wilderness designation for an area is the possible effects on the use of, and access to, the private and State inholdings.

Congress anticipated that private and State lands may be located within wilderness areas. Section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-577) states that where such is the case, the State or private owner

> . . . shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for Federally owned land. . .

Summary of Final Decisions

Table 5, which follows, contains a listing of the intensive inventory units in Oregon and Washington for which final intensive inventory decisions are being announced at this time. The list identifies acres in wilderness study areas (WSAs) and acres eliminated from further review. With the exception of those units for which decisions are deferred, the final decisions concerning the units in Table 5 are subject to protest to the Oregon State Director.

TABLE 5

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISIONS - Subject to Protest
(Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 2)

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
	PART A: OREGON			
LAKEVIEW				
1-2	Devils Garden Lava Bed	29,640		29,640
1-3	Squaw Ridge Lava Bed	28,320		28,320
1-4	Walker Cabin		34,080	34,080
1-6	Little Benjamin Lake		13,080	13,080
1-9	Bull Lake		32,360	32,360
1-10	Benjamin Lake		16,200	16,200
1-11	Chicago Valley		7,080	7,080
1-12	Lost Forest Adjacent Lands		6,240	6,240
1-21	South Green Mountain		14,720	14,720
1-22	Four Craters Lava Bed	12,120		12,120
1-24	Sand Dunes	15,520		15,520
1-38	Cox Butte		41,200	41,200
1-52	Mack Cabin		24,000	24,000
1-53	Rawhide Creek		21,600	21,600
1-54	Monahan Lake		9,280	9,280
1-55	Pickett Spring		10,760	10,760
1-57	Robinson Lake		42,400	42,400
1-58	Diablo Mountain	113,120		113,120
1-59	Whiskey Mountain		7,800	7,800
1-60	Coffee Lake		6,440	6,440
1-62	Whiskey Lake		48,560	48,560
1-64	Twin Buttes		22,080	22,080
1-65	Saunders Rim		17,000	17,000
1-67	Nub		6,520	6,520
1-71	Gray's Butte		25,040	25,040
1-72	Juniper Mountain		11,760	11,760
1-73	Pack Saddle Draw		18,680	18,680
1-74	Juniper Creek		23,280	23,280
1-75	Egan Cabin		6,240	6,240
1-79	Balls Lake		6,000	6,000
1-80	Twin Lakes		17,920	17,920
1-82	North Euchre Butte		22,600	22,600
1-85	Eagle Butte		13,220	13,220
1-86	Natural Corral Draw		12,500	12,500
1-87	Horseshoe Rim		21,000	21,000
1-88	Sunstone Mine North		29,360	29,360
1-89	Becon Camp		5,560	5,560
1-90	Sunrise Canyon		4,880	4,880

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
1-93	Spine Cob Butte			
1-94	Poker Jim Flat		11,000	11,000
1-95	ZX Ranch		14,360	14,360
1-96	Coglan Buttes		21,120	21,120
1-98	Abert Burn South		32,000	32,000
1-101	Abert Rim		18,200	18,200
1-102	Binkie Lake	22,240	640	22,880
1-106	Flint Hills		13,440	13,440
1-108	Rabbit Hills		23,840	23,840
1-114	Warner Lakes		15,360	15,360
1-115	Guano Slough		33,680	33,680
1-117A	Monument Flat		106,480	106,480
1-117B			16,240	16,240
1-118	Wakefield Cabin	18,520		18,520
1-120	Coleman Rim		28,880	28,880
1-124	Fish Canyon South		11,280	11,280
1-125	Horsehead Lake		8,160	8,160
* 1-126	Coleman Valley		12,000	12,000
1-127	Wool Lake		23,640	23,640
1-128	Long Lake		5,360	5,360
1-129	Jack Lake		9,000	9,000
1-130	Little Reservoir		10,000	10,000
1-131	Clover Swale		24,280	24,280
1-132	Guano Creek		7,640	7,640
1-133	Guano Lake West	10,560		10,560
1-134	Lone Grave Butte		13,480	13,480
1-135	Guano Lake		25,440	25,440
1-136	Beatys Butte		11,680	11,680
1-137	Mahogany Mountain		5,580	5,580
1-138	Buckaroo Pass		8,000	8,000
1-139A	Spaulding Reservoir		12,640	12,640
1-139B			4,640	4,640
1-140	Sagehen Spring	65,720		65,720
1-142	Wilson Spring		13,440	13,440
1-143	Ryegrass Valley		16,040	16,040
1-144	Bald Mountain		31,880	31,880
1-145	Sagehen Flat		14,040	14,040
1-146	Hawksie Walksie		15,715	15,715
1-146A				
1-146B		68,360	3,800	72,160
1-146C		8,520		8,520
1-148	Miller Creek		760	760
1-149	Bumpheads		6,480	6,480
			18,560	18,560

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
1-155	Swan Lake Rim		8,760	8,760
* 1-157	Coleman Valley West		10,000	10,000
1-158	Breezy		6,240	6,240
1-159	Catlow Valley		58,000	58,000
* 1-164	Snuff		1,440	1,440
Subtotal (81)		(392,640)	(1,332,655)	(1,725,295)
BURNS				
2-18	Skull Creek		8,795	8,795
2-19	Silvies River		7,520	7,520
2-30	Palomino Buttes		13,075	13,075
2-43	Wagontire Mountain		48,875	48,875
2-44	Tired Horse		8,275	8,275
2-47	Surprise Lake		21,940	21,940
2-48	Hay Lake		18,350	18,350
2-49	Sheep Lake		28,965	28,965
2-50	Claw Creek		8,600	8,600
2-52	Miller Canyon		5,805	5,805
2-53	Gum Boot Canyon		8,475	8,475
2-54	Saddle Butte		9,120	9,120
2-55	Frenchglen		65,925	65,925
2-56	Black Rim		13,555	13,555
2-57	Jackass Creek		19,255	19,255
2-58	Keg Springs		22,200	22,200
2-59	Taylor Cabin		14,850	14,850
2-60	Weed Lake		19,520	19,520
2-61	Foster Flat		42,760	42,760
2-62	Nothing There		10,620	10,620
2-63	Chicken Feed Lake		12,800	12,800
2-64	Buzzard Creek		34,495	34,495
2-65	Deep Canyon		6,215	6,215
2-67	Iron Mountain		13,580	13,580
2-68	Smokey Hollow		8,225	8,225
2-69	Devils Canyon		14,015	14,015
2-70	Wilson Butte		9,745	9,745
2-71	Goose Egg		15,930	15,930
2-72	Sheepshead Mountains			
2-72C		54,190	40	54,230
2-72D		35,000		35,000
2-72F		20,330		20,330
2-72I		38,855		38,855
2-72J		7,755		7,755
2-72	(other subunits)		31,445	31,445

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
2-73	Winter Range			
2-73A		21,395		21,395
2-73H		14,640		14,640
2-73	(other subunits)		35,715	35,715
** 2-74F	Alvord Desert	63,080	40	63,120
2-75	Black Point		51,300	51,300
2-77	Mahogany Ridge			
2-77B		27,370		27,370
2-77	(other subunits)		15,518	15,518
* 2-78	Red Mountain			
* 2-78D		2,720		2,720
2-78F		14,730	3,740	18,470
2-78	(other subunits)		10,420	10,420
* 2-80	Sand Hills		14,990	14,990
2-83	Alvord Peak			
2-83A		14,655	16,665	31,320
2-83	(other subunits)		8,260	8,260
2-84	Basque Hills			
2-84A		138,420	1,300	139,720
2-84	(other subunits)		8,570	8,570
2-85	South Steens			
2-85F		65,940	3,690	69,630
2-85G		35,850	20	35,870
2-85H		24,990		24,990
2-85	(other subunits)		17,325	17,325
2-86	Blitzen River			
2-86E		52,060	6,500	58,560
2-86F		9,380		9,380
2-86	(other subunits)		8,560	8,560
2-87	Bridge Creek			
2-87I		14,060	2,410	16,470
2-87	(other subunits)		12,000	12,000
2-88	Moon Hill		9,900	9,900
2-91	Guano Slough		22,165	22,165
2-92	Dead Horse		36,970	36,970
2-93	South Bollenbaugh		20,545	20,545
2-94	Walls Lake		51,130	51,130
2-98	Strawberry Mountain			
2-98A		180	20	200
2-98B			2,400	2,400
2-98C		720		720
2-98D		208	2	210

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

**The 63,080 acres indicated here are added, with this decision, to the 160,890 acres previously designated as wilderness study area on March 27, 1980.

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
2-103	Aldrich Mountain	9,395		9,395
2-110	Cottonwood Creek		5,145	5,145
2-111	Hay Creek		7,610	7,610
2-114	Syrup Canyon		7,570	7,570
2-115	Alkali Flat		14,285	14,285
Subtotal (51)		(665,923)	(937,735)	(1,603,658)
VALE				
3-6	DeArmond Mountain		45,510	45,510
3-8	Westfall Highlands		15,600	15,600
3-12	Hog Creek		20,480	20,480
3-16	Lower Bully Creek		19,060	19,060
3-18	Castle Rock	7,100	50	7,150
3-19	North Fork Malheur River		3,160	3,160
3-20	Mustang Basin		13,120	13,120
3-22	Cottonwood Creek		11,560	11,560
3-24	Buckbrush Creek		7,800	7,800
3-27	Beaver Dam Creek	18,900		18,900
3-30	Slaughter Gulch		15,400	15,400
3-31	Camp Creek	19,100		19,100
3-32	Cottonwood Creek	7,900		7,900
3-33	Gold Creek			
3-33A		13,400		13,400
3-33	(other subunits)		1,400	1,400
3-34	Squaw Creek		3,040	3,040
3-35	Sperry Creek	5,300	10	5,310
3-41	Keeney Creek		16,280	16,280
3-44	Star Mountain		14,360	14,360
3-47	Cedar Mountain	46,300	10	46,310
3-50	Freezeout Ridge		13,140	13,140
3-51	Broken Rim		10,800	10,800
3-52	Rock Canyon		8,460	8,460
3-53	Dry Creek	22,800	9,520	32,320
3-54	Burnt Mountain		9,600	9,600
3-56	Dry Creek Buttes	51,000	2,720	53,720
3-57	Quartz Mountain		15,420	15,420
3-59	Owyhee Breaks			
3-59A		12,800	200	13,000
3-59B			100	100
3-68	McIntyre Ridge		14,540	14,540
3-70	Spring Mountain		23,960	23,960
3-73	Blue Canyon	12,800	1,170	13,970
3-74	Upper Leslie Gulch			
3-74A		3,000	8,940	11,940
3-74B			460	460

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
3-75	Slocum Creek	7,600		7,600
3-77	Honeycombs			
3-77A		38,200	5,500	43,700
3-77B		12,500		12,500
3-77C			920	920
3-79	Mahogany Mountain		10,600	10,600
3-80	Mud Flat		8,760	8,760
3-82	Washboard Reservoir		7,040	7,040
3-100	Duck Pond		19,780	19,780
3-105	Piute		9,400	9,400
3-107	Obenchain		6,700	6,700
3-108	Turnbull Creek		13,240	13,240
3-110	Lower Owyhee Canyon	73,200	12,900	86,100
3-111	Saddle Butte	87,500		87,500
3-112	Scott's Butte		46,130	46,130
3-113	Rye Grass		21,300	21,300
3-114	Palomino Hills	54,700		54,700
3-116	Flat Top Mountain		16,100	16,100
3-118	Bowden Hills			
3-118A		59,000	4,100	63,100
3-118	(other subunits)		260	260
3-119	Barren Valley Now a	part of	Subunit 2-74F	
3-120	Clarks Butte	31,500	8,300	39,800
3-121	Deadman Creek		8,440	8,440
3-124	Bogus Rim		5,680	5,680
3-127	Little Crater		20,300	20,300
3-128	Jordan Craters			
3-128A		28,700	500	29,200
3-128	(other subunits)		1,930	1,930
3-130	Whitehorse Butte		25,420	25,420
3-132	Parsnip Peak		22,000	22,000
3-143	Combined with Unit 3-195			
3-144	Hardin		21,200	21,200
3-145	Winter Range		86,000	86,000
3-146	Combined with Unit 3-148			
3-148	Big Grassy Mountain		55,200	55,200
3-149	Hanson Canyon		15,960	15,960
3-152	Willow Creek	29,800	14,970	44,770
* 3-153	Disaster Peak	13,300		13,300
3-157	Oregon Canyon	41,900	16,200	58,100

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
* 3-159	Tent Creek	Defer Decision		
3-160	High Peak		14,040	14,040
3-162	Twelvemile			
3-162A		27,100	8,840	35,940
3-162	(other subunits)		3,760	3,760
3-163	Blue Mountain		61,980	61,980
3-164	Alcorta Rim		15,560	15,560
3-171	Pole Creek		19,200	19,200
* 3-172	Deer Flat		11,200	11,200
3-173	Upper West Little Owyhee			
3-173A		87,200	1,160	88,360
3-173	(other subunits)		1,560	1,560
3-178	Rattlesnake Creek		58,400	58,400
3-179	Rawhide		21,740	21,740
3-180	High Ridge		15,500	15,500
3-181	Antelope Creek		21,380	21,380
3-182	Red Rocks		22,400	22,400
3-183	Deadhorse		16,300	16,300
3-186	Field Creek		11,580	11,580
3-188	Star Valley		10,320	10,320
* 3-191	Cairn "C"		7,960	7,960
* 3-194	Lookout Butte	Defer Decision		
* 3-195	Owyhee Canyon	Defer Decision		
Subtotal (80)		(812,600)	(1,113,580)	(1,926,180)
PRINEVILLE				
5-5	Horse Ridge		4,855	4,855
5-6	Lower John Day			
5-6A		19,370	240	19,610
5-6B			2,335	2,335
5-8	North Pole Ridge	6,062	6,120	12,182
5-9	Spring Basin	5,982	301	6,283
5-10	Mt. Misery		5,055	5,055
5-11	Fossil Beds		7,623	7,623
5-18	Rocky Canyon		8,466	8,466
5-19	Chimney Rock		5,120	5,120
5-20	Alkali Flat		7,035	7,035
5-21	Badlands	32,053	1,119	33,172
5-22	Dry River		6,221	6,221
5-23	West Butte		16,440	16,440
5-31	North Fork			
5-31A		10,745		10,745
5-31	(other subunits)		335	335

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
5-33	South Fork	19,631	29	19,660
5-34	Sand Hollow	8,791	29	8,820
5-35	Gerry Mountain	20,700	1,140	21,840
5-36	Redman Rim		12,823	12,823
5-40	Sears Creek		11,980	11,980
5-42	Hampton Butte			
5-42A		10,600		10,600
5-42B			1,740	1,740
5-43	Cougar Well	17,315		17,315
5-46	Hampton		8,650	8,650
5-47	Stockpile		8,300	8,300
5-49	Hemstad		15,553	15,553
5-50	Whiskey Springs		6,792	6,792
5-51	Twin Pines		12,600	12,600
5-52	Dickerson Well		9,040	9,040
5-53	Two Post Lake		11,545	11,545
5-55	Lone Pine		17,175	17,175
5-56	Fredrick Butte		8,380	8,380
5-59	Grassy Lake		24,337	24,337
5-63	Stud Horse Butte		16,504	16,504
5-64	Glass Butte		10,911	10,911
5-65	Round Mountain		20,080	20,080
5-68	Steamboat Island		1	1
5-69	Eagle Butte Island		1	1
5-76	Kimberly Island		1	1
5-77	Refer to Unit Narrative			
5-78	Refer to Unit Narrative			
5-80	Refer to Unit Narrative			
5-81	Refer to Unit Narrative			
5-82	Nomanisa Island		1	1
5-83	Fantasy Island		2	2
Subtotal (38)		(151,249)	(268,879)	(420,128)

*Interstate Unit. This table gives Oregon acreage only. Refer to Table 3 for information about the contiguous portions in other state(s).

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
BAKER				
6-1	McGraw Creek	1,610	290	1,900
6-2	Homestead	10,700	1,100	11,800
6-3	Sheep Mountain	6,350	1,850	8,200
* 6-10	Cache Creek Ranch	1,960		1,960
6-11	Teepee Ridge		240	240
6-13	- Island		5	5
6-14	- Island		4	4
6-15	- Island		6	6
6-38	- Island		4	4
6-39	- Island		2	2
6-40	Hooker Gulch		6,100	6,100
Subtotal (11)		(20,620)	(9,601)	(30,221)
MEDFORD				
11-1	Mountain Lakes	320		320
11-16	Zane Gray		18,460	18,460
11-17	Soda Mountain	5,640		5,640
Subtotal (3)		(5,960)	(18,460)	(24,420)
COOS BAY				
12-8A	North Sisters Rocks	3		3
12-10A	Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks		5	5
12-12A	Lone Ranch Rocks		4	4
12-13A	Harris Island		2	2
12-14A	Zwagg Island and Table Rock	5	1	6
12-15	Fish Rock		1	1
Subtotal (6)		(8)	(13)	(21)
GRAND TOTAL (267)		2,049,000	3,680,923	5,729,923

*Of the total 2,935 acres in the unit, 975 acres are in Washington.

PART B: WASHINGTON

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
SPOKANE				
13-1	Juniper Forest		7,806	7,806
13-2	Chopaka Mountain	5,520	40	5,560
13-3	Lummi Rocks		8	8
13-4	Blind Island		2	2
13-5	Chuckanut Rocks		1	1
13-6	Fauntleroy Rock		1	1
13-7	Dot Rock		1	1
13-8	Refer to Unit Narrative			
13-9	Read's Bay Island		3	3
13-10	Twin Rocks		2	2
13-11	Barnes Rocks		1	1
13-12	Clark Rocks		1	1
13-14	Matia Rock		2	2
13-15	Davis Bay Island and Rocks		2	2
13-16	Richardson Rock		2	2
13-17	Skull Island		3	3
13-18	Harbor Rocks		1	1
13-19	Trinka Rock		1	1
13-20	Oak Island and Rock		1	1
13-21	Victim Island		3	3
13-22	Jap Island		1	1
13-23	Freeman Island and Beach Haven Rock		2	2
13-24	Little Patos Island	15		15
13-25	Ewing Rocks - Refer to Unit Narrative			
13-26	Refer to Unit Narrative			
13-27	King Islands		1	1
13-28	Kanaka Bay Islands		3	3
13-29	Park Bay Island		2	2
13-30	North Pass and McConnell Rocks		2	2
13-31	Broken Point Island		1	1
13-32	Posey Island		1	1
13-33	Mitchell's Bay Rocks and Guss Island		4	4
13-34	Pudding Island		1	1
13-35	John's Pass Rock and Rock Island		1	1
13-36	Prevost Harbor Rocks		2	2
13-37	Reid Harbor Rock		1	1
13-38	John's Island Rock		1	1

Unit Under Intensive Inventory	Name of Unit	Acres in Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Total Acres of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
13-39	Reservation Bay Rocks		1	1
13-40	Little Deadman and Deadman Islands		6	6
13-41	Narrow Rocks		2	2
13-44	Rockport Island		20	20
13-50	Clallam County Islands		20	20
13-59	Indian Island		2	2
13-60	Prindle Island		185	185
13-62	Lawrence Lake Island		1	1
13-63	Eagle Island		10	10
13-67	Columbia River Islands		270	270
Subtotal (44)		(5,535)	(8,421)	(13,956)
BAKER				
6-10	Cache Creek Ranch	975 *		975 *
GRAND TOTAL (45)		6,510	8,421	14,931

*In addition to the acreage indicated here, 1,960 acres in Unit 6-10 are located in Oregon.

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

Unit Number: 1-2

Unit Name: Devils Garden Lava Bed

Description

Size: 29,640 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles northeast of Fort Rock.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6179, 6189 and W 48, and, for approximately 14 miles, private and U.S. Forest Service land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists primarily of a large lava flow. The southern half is a rather smooth-surfaced flow with broad expanses containing minor to moderate surface irregularities. The northern portion of the unit contains numerous cinder cones and very rugged topography. The Devils Garden in the center of the unit is not covered with flow lava and supports sagebrush and grasses. This portion of the unit was recently acquired by the bureau and has been used for cattle grazing for many years. Vegetation on the unit is mixed sage, grasses, and juniper. Some ponderosa pine grows in the northern part of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains some old ranch structures in the Devils Garden area which are considered to have historical significance. The unit contains approximately ten miles of ways and a three mile intrusion road which enters the Devils Garden and goes as far as the well in Section 16. The ways in the unit are not substantially noticeable due to the extremely rugged terrain in the lava flows and the location of the ways. Most are barely traceable on the ground. There is one substantial way approximately one mile long going to Derrick Cave in the northeast corner of the unit. The most substantial visible feature of man's works in the unit is the 500 KV powerline which parallels the east boundary of the unit. The extremely rugged conditions in the unit and the topographic and vegetative screening near the listed intrusions provide a condition of apparent naturalness through the entire unit.

Solitude: The extremely rugged terrain in the unit provides outstanding opportunities to experience solitude. One can readily separate oneself from others in the unit, even though they may be in close proximity.

Recreation: The area offers outstanding, though very rugged hiking opportunities. The area provides abundant opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and study of geologic features.

Supplemental Values: The area contains archeologic sites and historic values in the Devils Garden area. The unit also contains Derrick Cave, a lava tube cave of significant proportions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 29,640-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comment: Nineteen comments were received. Eighteen support the proposed decision and one discusses the supplemental values of the unit without indicating a position on the decision. Seven of the comments specifically mention supplemental values and one comment requests that a dead-end road into Derrick Cave be closed so that no road intrudes into the unit.

Final Decision: Designate a 29,640-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area is in an apparently natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation as well as supplemental values related to geology, archeology and history.

Unit Number: 1-3

Unit Name: Squaw Ridge Lava Bed

Description

Size: 28,320 acres of public land. There are 320 acres of private land in the northeast part of the unit.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Fort Rock.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6169, 6159 and County Road 5-12. Approximately 12 miles of boundary are delineated by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a fairly recent lava flow. Lava Butte is a large peak in the central portion of the unit. The topography is extemely rugged with broken lava and sharp flow lavas covering most of the unit. A flat area near the northern boundary is outside the flow. The vegetation on the unit is grass, sage and scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately seven miles of vehicle ways which approach the edge of the lava flow at several locations. These ways are not substantially noticeable in the majority of the unit. Because of the extremely rugged character of the unit, it has remained in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The majority of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Travel in the unit is difficult due to the ruggedness of the area and a person has an outstanding feeling of solitude even a short way inside the unit.

Recreation: The area lacks any free water and offers extremely challenging terrain to the hiker or backpacker. The challenging nature of the unit intensifies the recreation experience. The unit offers outstanding potential for wildlife observation, geology study and photography among other pursuits.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers archeologic and geologic values for study.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 28,320-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comment: Seventeen comments were received. Sixteen support the proposed decision and one discusses the supplemental values of the unit without indicating a position on the decision. Three comments specifically mention supplemental values in the unit.

Final Decision: Designate a 28,320-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is in a natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-4

Unit Name: Walker Cabin

Description

Size: 34,080 acres of public land. There are two private tracts totalling 720 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: The east and north boundary is BLM Road 6171. The west boundary is County Road 5012. The south boundary is delineated by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the terrain is rolling, and there are small hills near the Walker Butte area. Most of the unit contains moderate to dense juniper cover. The southern third of the unit opens to sage flats at the north edge of Christmas Lake Valley. There are three fairly large ephemeral lakes near the northern boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit is traversed by five major vehicle ways which are considerably noticeable. These ways total approximately 24 miles in length. The east boundary road is associated with a 500 KV DC powerline which is very apparent on the east side of the unit and constitutes a strong impact on naturalness on the east side of the unit. The lakebeds in the north of the unit have been developed with lakebed pits and numerous vehicle ways. Though small segments of the unit are undisturbed, the unit does not appear generally natural and the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Terrain and vegetation provide some degree of solitude in small areas, but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit provides some limited opportunities for activities such as photography, wildlife observation and hunting, but the potential is not outstanding within the region.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comment: Three comments were received on the unit. One supports the proposed decision. Two oppose the decision and suggest that all or part of the unit be a WSA. The comments argue that the vegetation on the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The lakebed developments, ways and powerline impact significant portions of the unit to a degree that the works of man are substantially noticeable. The unit was traversed again in checking the public comments during the review period. Although some degree of solitude is offered in the juniper areas, opportunities for solitude or recreation are not outstanding when considered in relation to others of their kind.

Unit Number: 1-6

Unit Name: Little Benjamin Lake

Description

Size: 13,080 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private land in the northern part of the unit.

Location: Approximately 15 miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121, 6141, and 6171 and County Road 5-12.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has low rolling hills in the south with sage and juniper cover. The northern portion is somewhat flatter with sagebrush and scattered juniper and several shallow lakebeds.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains several lakebed pits in the north and east which are substantially noticeable for a considerable distance because of the low topography. A wood pole powerline runs approximately five miles north to south through the western side of the unit. Because the poles are higher than the juniper, the line is very noticeable from a considerable distance in all directions. A vehicle way parallels the powerline. The unit contains approximately four miles of fenceline on the south which remain substantially unnoticeable. The water developments and powerline represent significant impacts given the size, topography and vegetation of the unit. The unit does not appear primarily natural and the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of its narrow shape and limited topographic screening, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It would be difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers some limited opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, but the recreation opportunities are less than outstanding. The unit is small and does not offer strong attractions to the recreationist.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comment: One comment concurred with decision to elimimate the unit from further review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-9

Unit Name: Bull Lake

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 32,360 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 560 acres in the center of the unit.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121 and 6141. A small portion of the northeast corner of the unit is bounded by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The north half of the unit contains rolling hills with moderate to dense juniper cover. The highest point on the unit is West Butte. The south half of the unit has minor rolling contours and flats with a number of small ephemeral lakebeds. Cover on the south half of the unit is big sagebrush with occasional scattered junipers. The southwest corner of the unit contains the Wardell Seeding, a drilled seeding of approximately 3,000 acres.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 12 miles of fenceline, and nearly ten miles of vehicle ways. The ways and fences are not substantially noticeable. The unit contains four large lakebed pits which are visible for a considerable distance. The southwest corner of the unit contains 3,000 acres of seeding which does not appear natural. The majority of the unit, aside from the seeding, appears generally natural, and the impacts of mans works are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Small areas with rolling hills and juniper in the north half of the unit provide an opportunity for some degree of solitude. The south half is much flatter with sagebrush cover that would not offer any significant opportunity to be free of the presence of others. The unit does not provide any areas with an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some potential for hiking, wildlife observation and hunting. The unit does not present opportunities for recreation which would be outstanding in nature.

Supplemental Values: Approximately 200 acres in the south of the unit are located inside the Lost Forest Research Natural area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comment: Ten comments were received, one supporting the proposed decision, nine suggesting all or part of the unit be designated WSA. Commentors also suggested combining the unit with surrounding units. The fact that the unit is contiguous to the Lost Forest Research Natural Area was specified in several comments. Several comments alluded to uniqueness of the area as part of a group including the Lost Forest and sand dune units. One comment specifically mentioned the juniper and sage cover as adding to the solitude potential of the area and considered the recreation potential to be outstanding for horseback riding, hunting and photography. One comment suggested dropping the Wordell seeding from the unit and designating the remaining portion WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is open sage country with low contours and minimal opportunities for solitude. The juniper cover on the unit is scattered to moderate in the northern third of the unit. This provides some opportunity for solitude but not an outstanding degree of solitude within the juniper type associated with the region. The opportunity is greatest in the widest portion of the unit, an area containing slightly over 6,000 acres. The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, though present to some degree, are not outstanding in character. The portions of the unit adjacent to the Lost Forest Research Natural Area are open sage and do not share any of the unique character of the Lost Forest ecotype.

Unit Number: 1-10

Unit Name: Benjamin Lake

Description

Size: 16,200 acres.

Location: Approximately 18 miles northwest of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6101, 6121 and spurs. Approximately five miles of boundary are private land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has a low, rolling landscape with numerous small drainages and very low hills. The vegetation on the unit is mixed sage and scattered juniper. Benjamin Lake is a large ephemeral lakebed in the northeast part of the unit. Several smaller lakebeds are scattered through the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Aside from several ways and pit developments in the immediate vicinity of Banjamin Lake, the unit remains in an essentially natural condition. Approximately two miles of fenceline near the northwest boundary are relatively unnoticeable.

Solitude: The gentle contours and juniper screening offer a degree of solitude in part of the unit. However, because of the limited size of the portion offering solitude and the limited overall size of the unit, the opportunity is less than outstanding.

Recreation: The area offers limited potential for hiking, photography and wildlife observation. The topography and vegetation are similar to that in the rest of the region and do not provide outstanding recreation opportunities. The unit contains Benjamin Cave, a lava tube cave which offers some potential for limited exploration. The cave is small and does not offer an outstanding opportunity.

Supplemental Values: Benjamin Cave offers some geologic interest. The unit possesses archeologic values, though they are not documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comment: One general comment supported the initial recommendation. Three comments were received recommending the unit for WSA status and all three incorporated comments on this unit with other surrounding units suggesting combining units to achieve solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation potential. Comments also linked this unit to the Lost Forest which is nearby but not contiguous. The presence of ephemeral lakes and potential water was identified but not as to which units in the comment were specificlaly referenced.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The comments favoring a change in the decision on this unit placed major emphasis on consolidating this unit with others in the area. This is not possible because the units are separated by roads. Congress mandated the Bureau to inventory roadless areas, and the existence of roads cannot be ignored in the inventory phase of the wilderness review. The unit was re-evaluated in the field to determine whether the public comments provided information which should cause the proposed decision to be revised. However, we continue to believe the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria. The generally open terrain, with only scattered juniper cover, offers very little opportunity for solitude. Though the area may be remote, one would not readily find himself isolated from others in the unit. The unit does have some potential for primitive and unconfined recreation. Benjamin Cave offers one point of interest, but overall the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for recreation activities.

Unit Number: 1-11

Unit Name: Chicago Valley

Description

Size: 7,080 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Road W60 on the north, and BLM Road 6101 on the west, south and east.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is approximately two miles wide six miles long. The unit is located on a low east-west ridge with sagebrush and juniper. The unit contains three small lakebeds and a portion of a fourth lakebed on the west.

Wilderness Criteria

Size. The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The narrow shape, small size, and moderate topography allow only a minimal opportunity for a person to avoid others in the unit. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Because of its narrow shape and lack of topographic or other significant features which might represent recreation attractions, the unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received on this unit. One comment favored the proposed decision, one comment suggested that the unit be combined with other surrounding units to form a larger unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in an apparantly natural condition but does not offer any outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to its extremely limited size and configuration. The unit cannot be combined with other units because they are separated from each other by roads. Congress mandated the Bureau of review roadless areas. The existence of roads cannot be ignored in the wilderness inventory.

Unit Number: 1-12

Unit Name: Lost Forest Adjacent Lands

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 6,240 acres.

Location: Approximately 15 miles east of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6121, 6141, 6151.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains two ephemeral lakes on the east and northeast. A ridgeline runs north to south, with flats to the east and slightly rolling country to the west. The portions outside the RNA are primarily flat to gently rolling. The land inside the RNA contains sand dunes and rolling hills with juniper and ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has been disturbed by numerous human activities and in general does not appear to be in a natural condition. A major portion of the unit was logged in 1954 and still bears the scars of that action. The unit contains four miles of fenceline and several ways which are substantially noticeable because of the limited size of the unit and exposure of these impacts to the visitor in the majority of the area.

Solitude: The limited size of the unit, the topography, and general exposure throughout the unit combine to prevent one from achieving any substantial degree of solitude in the unit. A person would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers marginal opportunities for day use of the area. The uniqueness of the isolated ponderosa pine stands is of interest. However, the unit itself does not offer outstanding recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: The ponderosa pine in the Lost Forest are unique in that they are growing in an area with an average annual precipitation that is generally considered too little to sustain the species.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Eight comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and seven suggest that the unit qualifies as a WSA. Cited in support of the unit are its supplemental values. A comment also suggested that in spite of the presence of logging scars the unit remained in a generally natural condition and offered solitude values.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit contains 6,240 acres of land, the majority of which is sage flats, ephemeral lake and a low ridge in the north of the unit. Vehicle ways, a fenceline and scars of logging operations remain in the portion within the Lost Forest Research Natural Area. A small area in the dunes remains in a generally natural appearance. A minor degree of solitude may be present within this small area on the eastern edge of the RNA, but this very confined opportunity is not outstanding. Recreation potential in the small area remaining in a natural condition is limited.

Unit Number: 1-21

Unit Name: South Green Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 14,720 acres of public land. During the public review period following the proposed intensive inventory decision, a constructed and maintained road was identified in the unit. It extends from T 26 S., R. 17 E., Section 8, to Boundary Well on the north boundary of the Unit. The lands west of this road total 3,000 acres and are now designated Subunit 21A. This tract does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is eliminated from further review.

Subunit Number: 1-21B

Description

Size: 14,320 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private inholdings in the south central portion.

Location: Approximately nine miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by spurs of BLM Road 6109, the road south of Boundary Well, as mentioned above, and private land on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the subunit is a sagebrush flat located above a bench on the north edge of Christmas Valley. The land rises toward the north to rolling hills and a large rock outcrop at South Green Mountain. The subunit has scattered juniper increasing in density to the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The majority of the area remains in a generally natural appearance with minor impacts from range fences and an intrusion way on the east side which goes to a stock watering station. Ten acres in the south end of the subunit are leased for a dump site. A deadend road leads to the site.

Solitude: The northern part of the unit offers some opportunity for solitude because there are more juniper and topographic features to provide screening than there are in the south. The southern portion of the unit offers very little opportunity for one to avoid the presence of others in the unit. The unit as a whole offers some degree of solitude but not any outstanding opportunity.

Recreation: The northern portion of the unit offers some opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation and hunting. The opportunities through the unit are not outstanding for primitive recreation because of restrictions of size, topography and interest features in the unit.

Supplemental Values: Though none have been inventoried the unit may possess some archeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and four suggest that the unit qualifies as a WSA. They argue that the rugged terrain provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and that the proximity of the unit to the Lost Forest Research Natural Area favors the unit as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit is slightly more than two miles wide on the north and approximately 3 1/2 miles wide on the south. The northern section possesses limited potential for solitude, but it is limited because of the relatively small size of the forested portion. The southern part of the unit is open terrain and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Unit Number: 1-22

Unit Name: Four Craters Lava Bed

Description

Size: 12,120 acres.

Location: Approximately nine miles north of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: The north and west boundaries are BLM Road 6109. The east and south boundaries are private land and County Road 5-14.

Physical Description: The east side of the unit and southern one-third are sage and juniper flats with limited relief. The remaining portion of the unit, approximately 5,000 acres, is a recent lava flow with extremely rugged surface features and four large spatter cones on a north-to-south line through the flow. The unit also contains "Crack-in-the-Ground", a unique geologic feature in the basalt which reaches a maximum depth of approximately 70 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately three and one-half miles of vehicle way on the east and approximately two miles of way going toward Crack-in-the-Ground on the west. The unit also contains a pit toilet and visitor use area near the north end of the Crack-in-the Ground. The unit remains in a generally natural appearance with disturbance near the Crack-in-the-Ground.

Solitude: The east and southern portions of the unit offer only minor solitude to the visitor. The lava portion of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the rugged topography and juniper cover. The feeling of solitude in the lava fields and near the spatter cones dominates one's experience in the unit.

Recreation: The lava area and spatter cones offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, sightseeing and investigation of geologic features. The Crack-in-the-Ground is currently a popular visitor site within the Lakeview District and rates very highly as a scenic attraction.

Supplemental Values: The unusual combination of geologic features with recent flow lava, spatter cones and the oddity of the Crack-in-the-Ground is a considerable supplemental scientific value within the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,120-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Fourteen support the proposed decision and one suggests that only the recent lava flow area of approximately 5,000 acres be a WSA.

Final Decision: Designate a 12,120-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit, though relatively small, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority of the unit is in an apparently natural condition, including the portion outside the lava flow. There is no valid reason for limiting the study area to the lava flow. The unit offers an unusual combination of geologic features as a supplemental value.

Unit Number: 1-24

Unit Name: Sand Dunes

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with and includes portions of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area (RNA) and Wilderness Instant Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all natural and primitive areas designated prior to July 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the wilderness review schedule of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Lost Forest RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that portions of it would be re-evaluated as portions of contiguous inventory units. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of one of the units which includes part of the RNA.

Description

Size: 15,520 acres.

Location: Approximately nine miles northeast of Christmas Valley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6141, 6151 and 6171. The south boundary is the edge of an area determined in a 1977-78 wilderness inventory to lack wilderness characteristics. Segments of the north and west boundary are defined by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is sand dunes and broad sand flats with very sparse vegetation. Around the borders of the unit, the low, rolling topography was formed when sand built up low hills or hummocks around vegetation. Vegetation in the unit consists of sage, rabbitbrush and greasewood with scattered Elymus in the dunes.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit remains substantially natural in appearance due to the shifting of the dunes. A well and some minor vehicle ways in the northern portion of the unit comprise the only significant evidence of man in the unit. These features are relatively unnoticeable within the context of the entire unit.

Solitude: The sand flats on the west side of the unit offer only marginal opportunities for solitude. The central and east portions of the unit contain small to large sand dunes reaching maximum heights of approximately sixty feet. The potential for solitude on the higher dunes was initially evaluated as not being outstanding. We felt there were some opportunities for solitude in the low area among the dunes, but that the opportunities were not outstanding. Public comments took exception to this evaluation and asserted the opportunities for solitude are outstanding. After considering the public response and reevaluating the unit, we have concluded that portions of the unit do offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Visitors would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit as they walked through the area with the largest dunes.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunity for hiking, photography, and paleontologic study. Opportunities for camping are not outstanding because of the blowing sand. Overall, the opportunities for primitive recreation activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes are a unique ecosystem in Eastern Oregon and are of great interest as a geologic oddity. The sand dunes contribute to the sustained growth of ponderosa pine in the Lost Forest Research Natural area. Paleontological sites have been found in a 5,440-acre off-road vehicle exclosure in the west portion of the unit.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further review. It was believed at that time that the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and the others all suggest that the unit qualifies as a WSA. About half of those provide no information in support of the position. Others argue that the sand dunes provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and outstanding opportunities for hiking. The contiguity of the unit to the Lost Forest Research Natural Area was cited as an additional factor in favor of the unit being a WSA. Specific exception was taken to the mention of the lack of water and the winds and blowing sands being detrimental to a primitive recreation experience. The use of the word "desolate" in the narrative was challenged as representing opportunity for solitude.

Final Decision: Designate a 15,520-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area is in an essentially natural condition. After re-evaluating the unit and considering public comments, we have changed our assessment of the unit's opportunities for solitude. We believe users would have outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of other users in the high dunes. However, we continue to believe the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for recreation. We recognize that some areas with harsh environments do offer outstanding recreation opportunities, but such areas contain some element of sufficient attractiveness to outweigh the adverse characteristics. We do not believe the Sand Dunes contain such elements.

Unit Number: 1-38

Unit Name: Cox Butte

Description

Size: 41,200 acres.

Location: Eight miles south of Wagontire.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6130, 6110, 6120 B, and 6120 A.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is sagebrush flats and low rolling contours dropping in elevation to Dry Valley on the east. The unit contains some minor draws which open out to the east. The northern end of the unit climbs in elevation toward Little Juniper Mountain and the highest point in the unit is Cox Butte. The unit has sage cover and a large grass seeding. Scattered junipers occur on the northern border.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The unit contains 25 waterholes ranging from small reservoirs in drainages to large lakebed pits. There are 29 miles of ways in the unit. Several of the ways are in good condition despite being classed as ways. A significant intrusion is the Cox Grove Seeding; at 1800 acres in size, this drilled seeding is obvious evidence of man's works in the unit.

The general flatness of the terrain leaves one exposed to all the developments listed above, and the area does not retain a natural appearance. The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria because the developments are scattered through the unit to the extent that they are unavoidable.

Solitude: Small areas in the northern end of the unit, where the land is slightly more broken and vegetated, might offer some opportunity for solitude. However, such areas are limited and do not offer any outstanding opportunities.

Recreation: The unit offers high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The area supports many birds as well as deer and substantial herds of antelope. Small mammals are also abundant in the area. Although the area could be hiked and could provide some areas of interest for the recreationist, the obvious disturbances prevent the experience from having primitive or wilderness qualities.

Supplemental Values: The area would be expected to possess some archeologic values and has high wildlife values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the area does offer some high potential for recreational use, it lacks any outstanding opportunity for solitude, is severely affected by the works of man, and does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Unit Number: 1-52

Unit Name: Mack Cabin

Description

Size: 24,000 acres of public land. The unit contains 320 acres of private land in a single tract near the west boundary.

Location: Approximately 30 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: Approximately six and one-half miles of the west boundary are private land. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6110, 6155 D and 6165.

Physical Characteristics: The west half of the unit is essentially a long narrow sage flat known as Dry Valley. The east half of the unit includes the high rim which rises above Dry Valley and the flat sagelands above and east of the rim. The south end of the unit has some rolling contours and three ephemeral lakebeds.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 13 miles of scattered ways which generally lead to water developments. There are six reservoirs and three substantial lakebed pits in the unit. The reservoirs are generally unnoticeable and the lake developments affect only the nearby areas. The unit remains in a generally natural appearance with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The east and west halves of the unit are separated by a rather high rim but each half is essentially a flat to slightly rolling sagebrush area which offers little opportunity to avoid the sights or sounds of others in that half of the unit. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited potential for hunting and hiking. The extremely narrow configuration of the unit precludes any real opportunity to pursue a primitive and unconfined recreational experience.

Supplemental Values: None were documented during the inventory, though some archeologic values might be present.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit lacks any significant opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its shape and topography.

Unit Number: 1-53

Unit Name: Rawhide Creek

Description

Size: 21,600 acres of public land. The unit has five blocks of private and State inholdings totalling 2,780 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: State land and the Dry Valley Road in the northwest. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads 6165 and 6155 and spurs.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit is basically a high plateau with Rawhide Canyon along the north and east, and several tributaries to Rawhide Creek forming substantial canyons within the unit. These streams are all ephemeral and the canyons are dry most of the year. Rawhide Creek divides into several small canyons in the south end of the unit. The canyons are the only significant topographic relief and reach a maximum depth of perhaps 200 feet. The canyon walls are generally sloped with few vertical or near-vertical features. Vegetation in the unit is a sagebrush community with low sage over the majority of the unit and big sagebrush occurring in the wetter areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Eleven ways in the unit total approximately 24 miles in length. These ways spread through the area and are substantially noticeable. There are ways penetrating the majority of these side canyons and the north boundary road passes down the bottom of the deepest portion of Rawhide Canyon. They bring a substantial impact into those portions of the unit which would be the highest interest areas. The unit has approximately five miles of fenceline which are not substantially noticeable. There are six reservoirs in the unit, three of which are quite large and form a substantial impact at Arthur Lake, in Indian Canyon, and in a large drainage in Section 16 south of Rawhide Springs Reservoir. Because of these man-made features and their high exposure through the unit, it does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. The disturbances are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: It would be very difficult to achieve solitude in the majority of the plateau area because a visitor would be exposed to the presence of others in the unit. There is some opportunity for solitude in the canyons of the unit although these areas would be concentrated use areas and as such could not provide an outstanding potential for avoiding the the presence of other persons. The canyons are not large enough to provide outstanding isolation potential.

Recreation: The area offers opportunity for hunting and horseback riding as well as hiking. The canyons are interesting and offer a potential for recreation. However, the human disturbances in these areas would severely hamper the prospect of a primitive and unconfined experience.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains archeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is severely affected by ways and other developments and does not meet the naturalness criteria. The area does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 1-54

Unit Name: Monahan Lake

Description

Size: 9,280 acres.

Location: Approximately 40 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: Spurs of BLM Road 6155.

Physical Characteristics: The east side of the unit is a valley bottom with three lakebeds. A ridge runs north to south through the unit with an escarpment on the east; a gentle down-slope canted to the west forms the remaining portion of the unit. Cover in the unit is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains six reservoirs and nine miles of vehicle ways. Considering the size and narrow shape of the unit, these features represent a significant impact of man's works in the unit. The unit does not remain in an essentially natural condition.

Solitude: The unit is long and narrow in configuration, and with the low vegetation cover, a person would not be able to avoid the sounds and sights of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers some hunting potential but little opportunity for primitive recreation. The narrow confines and exposure of the unit are not favorable for recreation.

Supplemental Values: None were recorded during the inventory.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not retain a generally natural appearance because the works of man are substantially noticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-55

Unit Name: Pickett Spring

Description

Size: 10,760 acres.

Location: Approximately 40 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 7175 and W 23.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is primarily rolling sagebrush country with some broad open valleys. A steep hillside rises from the northwest boundary. The eastern portions of the unit are at a higher elevation.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven reservoirs and approximately seven miles of barely followable vehicle ways. The intrusions are not substantially noticeable and the unit's appearance remains generally natural.

Solitude: The unit has broad expanses where a person can see completely across most of the unit. The terrain and vegetation do not provide any significant degree of solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides some limited hunting and wildlife observation opportunities. The unit does not contain any outstanding features nor provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit possesses no documented supplemental values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit is generally of a natural appearance, it offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-57

Unit Name: Robinson Lake

Subunits: This unit contains 42,400 acres. It is divided into two subunits by BLM Road 7175. Both subunits are described below.

Subunit Number: 1-57A

Description

Size: 17,360 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: BLM Road 7175 on the west and south and a BLM road from north Flybee Lake to O'Keefe Reservoir on the east.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit has somewhat rolling terrain on the west with broader flat areas in the remaining portions. The unit contains five fairly large lakebeds at Flynn, Robinson and Junction Lakes. The vegetation in the subunit is primarily big sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains seven miles of fenceline. The major five-mile section of generally north to south fence is paralleled by a broad vehicle way which is substantially noticeable throughout the central core of the subunit. It also contains approximately 13 miles of additional well defined vehicle ways which are substantially noticeable. Waterholes in Flynn, Robinson and Junction Lakes with associated ways are also substantially noticeable. The subunit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature because the impacts of these developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This subunit offers some degree of solitude. However, it does not have sufficient size relative to the topography to offer a visitor an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the subunit.

Recreation: This subunit offers moderate, but not outstanding potential for hunting. Backpacking and hiking are possible activities that could be engaged in on this subunit, but the amount of area free of the works of man is so limited that the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. Refer to the end of the description of this unit for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-57B

Description

Size: 25,040 acres of public land. There is one State school section in the center of the unit.

Location: Approximately 35 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The majority of the south and east boundaries are defined by private land. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 7165, 7165C, 7175, W68 and a three mile segment of an unnumbered BLM road on the northeast corner of the unit.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains high desert sage uplands dissected by canyons. It includes Augustine, Dudes, Barber and Loggerhead canyons and their smaller tributaries. The canyons have high-angle eroded slopes rather than vertical walls. The eastern boundary area contains numerous basalt rims up to several hundred feet high where the canyons open onto Clover Swale and Tucke Flat.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains twelve water developments, primarily located in the canyon bottoms at scattered locations. As the developments are quite dispersed, they remain substantially unnoticeable. The unit contains approximately 17 miles of defined vehicle ways. The ways north of Balls Lake and along and in Dudes Canyon present noticeable intrusions because of their locations within the particular landscapes and the amounts of use. The subunit also contains approximately 11 miles of fenceline which remains substantially unnoticeable. There are some localized detractions from naturalness, but the subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The majority of the acreage in the subunit is flat sagebrush uplands offering a relatively poor opportunity to experience solitude. The canyons in the unit provide greater isolation from others in the unit. They also tend to be concentrated use areas and generally lack features which would separate parties from one another, such as great distances or strong topographic relief. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of these constraints.

Recreation: The subunit offers potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The canyons would offer values for hiking and sightseeing. The lack of water or aquatic habitat limits recreation values in the majority of the area. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. See below for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two support the proposed decisions. One comment opposes the proposed decision, and from the content of the comment we assume it refers to subunit 1-57B only. It suggests that the opportunities provided by the canyons for both solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding.

Final Decisions: Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not remain in an essentially natural condition. Unit 57B does remain generally natural in appearance, but there are a number of man-made intrusions in the area which the traveler would encounter. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights, sounds, or evidence of others within the unit. The canyons are not long enough, nor is there enough of them, to adequately separate parties from each other. Opportunities for recreation are not outstanding because there is no particular feature or element to draw visitors to the area. The canyons would provide minimum opportunities for hiking and sightseeing, but such opportunities would not stand above others of their kind.

Unit Number: 1-58

Unit Name: Diablo Mountain

Description

Size: 113,120 acres of public land. There are 1,360 acres of private land in four inholdings in the west half of the unit.

Location: Five miles north of Paisley.

Boundaries: The west boundary is private land and County Road 4-17. The other boundaries are Highway 31 on the south and BLM Roads 6134, 6144 and 6104.

Physical Characteristics: This is a very large unit containing two different kinds of land forms. The west half, approximately 52,000 acres, is comprised of the Summer Lake dry lakebed and the rolling sand dunes to the east of the lake. The eastern half of the unit is a series of uplifted blocks and rims rising in elevation to the east, with the high point being a long north-to-south rim containing Mount Diablo. The east edge of the Diablo Rim drops vertically approximately 1800 feet to the east boundary of the unit. Vegetation on the west side of the unit consists of salt tolerant species on the alkali flats and dune areas. As one moves east across the unit, the vegetation gradually changes to a sagebrush community as concentrations of wind-blown salts from Summer Lake decrease. All vegetation in the unit is very low.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five water developments and two major ways which cross the unit from north to south. These developments and ways are substantially unnoticeable because of their location and condition. Approximately four miles of bladed road extending into a reservoir west of Sharp Peak are noticeable in the immediate area but of little consequence on the unit as a whole. The area remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The area clearly possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is one of the larger roadless areas identified in the state. It is a simple matter for a person to feel apart from the presence of others in the unit as the topography is rugged and one has a large area within which to roam.

Recreation: The unit has no potable water. Portions of unit have rugged topography. However, there are vast distances and little variety of terrain to traverse until one reaches the highest elevations of Diablo. This presents a less than outstanding opportunity for hiking and backpacking. A person on foot in the unit would be greatly challenged with very little in prospect of reward for the efforts involved. Portions of the unit on the east side with closer access to roads would offer some rewards for the primitive recreationist.

Supplemental Values: Though none are documented some archeological values may occur in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 113,120 acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-seven comments were received. Twenty of them clearly support the proposed decision. One of them appears to suggest that the opportunities for recreation are outstanding, as well as those for solitude. One comment discusses supplemental values without reference to the decision. Two comments seem to agree that the decision to identify the WSA is appropriate in part; but that the size should be reduced to include the mountainous area but not the surrounding flats. One comment raises study phase issues that are not pertinent to the inventory decision. Three comments are opposed to the decision to identify the WSA. One suggests that there are roads throughout the unit that qualify as roads because of continual use even though they have never required mechanical improvement or maintenance. This comment also suggests that the human developments are substantially noticeable and that the alkali dust detracts from recreationl opportunities. One comment argues that the reservoirs are substantially noticeable. The other argues that outside influences limit opportunities for solitude and that the lack of water and vegetation make the area dangerous and less than outstanding for recreation.

Final Decision: Designate a 113,120-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: After reviewing the public comments and field checks, we continue to believe that the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and remains in a generally natural appearance. The minor impacts of the water holes and minor ways are restricted to a very small area around the improvements, and they do not significantly detract from the overall naturalness of the unit. We continue to believe that the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. It does not contain significant or unique features which would draw users.

Unit Number: 1-59

Unit Name: Whiskey Mountain

Description

Size: 7,800 acres.

Location: East of Mt. Diablo.

Boundaries: BLM roads 6144-0-00 and 6144-0-A0.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains one fault block ridge with a steep escarpment on the east and a low-angle slope on the west. One small canyon cuts into the ridge near the center of the unit. There are several dry lakebeds along the valley bottom on the western perimeter. Low sage is the primary vegetation in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: Lakebed pits located near the west boundry of the unit have minor impacts on the unit. The majority of the unit is in a natural condition.

Solitude: The west portion of the unit contains a highly exposed slope. The unit is extremely narrow (maximum width one and one-half miles) and lacks screening. It would be difficult to be isolated from others within the unit.

Recreation: The narrow shape and small size of the unit preclude any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

Supplemental Value: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Nine comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and seven suggest that the unit be a WSA. None of these argues that the unit alone possesses wilderness characteristics. One specifically disagrees about the designation of a road between Units 1-58 and 1-59. Of the seven, four suggest that this unit be combined with 1-58, one that it be combined with 1-58, 1-60 and 1-62, and one that it be combined with Units 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98 and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others). Each of these six comments either suggests or implies that unit 1-59 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitide recreation if it was combined with one or more other units.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in a generally natural appearance but does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude nor primitive and unconfined recreation. Portions of the road between Units 58 and 59 are currently in poor condition, but the road has been constructed and maintained to assure relatively regular and continuous use and meets the road definition. This unit cannot be combined with Unit 59 or with other units because Congress mandated the Bureau of inventory roadless areas. The existence of roads separating roadless areas cannot be ignored in the inventory.

Number: 1-60

Unit Name: Coffee Lake

Description

Size: 6,440 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6104 and 6144.

Physical Characteristics: There is a north-south trending, east-facing basalt rim rising several hundred feet above the east boundary of the unit. From the top of the rim west, the unit consists of the downslope of a fault block formation. The unit is sage covered and offers only minor relief. The unit is seven miles long and from one-half to two miles wide.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains two lakebed pits on the northeast side of the unit. These pits have a minor visual impact, and the unit remains in an apparently natural condition.

Solitude: With the low relief, uplift slope making up the majority of the unit, the unit's small size, and its narrow configuration, there would be very little opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: Because of its small size and lack of any significant feature representing a recreation value, the unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision. The three comments which oppose the decision do not present arguments that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics. Instead they suggest that Unit 1-60 be combined with Unit 1-58, Units 1-58, 1-59, and 1-62, or Units 1-59, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-81 2, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent ot the others). These comments suggest or imply that unit 1-60 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation if it was combined with the other units listed.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural, but the narrow shape, small size and exposure of the unit does not allow for any degree of solitude. The area also lacks any significant recreation values of a primitive and unconfined nature. The unit cannot be combined with other units because Congress mandated the Bureau of inventory roadless areas. The existence of roads separating roadless areas cannot be ignored in the inventory.

Unit Number: 1-62

Unit Name: Whiskey Lake

Description

Size: 48,560 acres.

Location: Approximately ten miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6104, 6144 and 6184. A deadend road extends into the west side of the unit to a horsetrap. It is approximately three and one-half miles long. A second deadend road extends into a horsetrap on the north.

Physical Characteristics: The general elevation across the unit is about 5,000 feet. The highest point is Tough Peak at 5,625 feet near the northern boundary. The unit is a broad sage area of low rolling contours with some minor north-to-south trending rims. Approximately 30 ephemeral lake basins are located in the unit. Six of the basins have substantial pit water developments. The country is very open with a large field of view from almost anywhere in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 28 miles of vehicle ways used to maintain water developments and manage grazing in the unit. There are nine large lakebed pits. The unit is not substantially free of the works of man. In one respect, the intrusions may not appear substantially noticeable because of the size of the unit. A person traversing the area on foot, however, would repeatedly encounter the disturbances. The overall impression gained from such a hike would be that the area is not essentially natural.

Solitude: The unit is of sufficient size that isolated areas would offer some degree of solitude. However, one would not be able to avoid the presence of others in the broad expanses of most of the unit. Because of the high degree of visibility, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit would present some opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. The lack of potable water within the unit and distances of repetitive rolling terrain with no features offering any degree of attraction to the recreationist represent a less than outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None documented in the unit although some archeological values may be associated with the numerous dry lake beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Six comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and four oppose it. Those which oppose the decision do not provide any information about the unit's wilderness characteristics. Three of them suggest that Unit 1-62 be combined with various other units in order to form a larger WSA. The suggested combinations are with Units 1-58 and 1-59, with Units 1-58, 1-59 and 1-60, and with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria because the number and dispersion of developments. Although somewhat large, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude nor primitive and unconfined recreation due to the rolling terrain and high exposure through large portions of the unit from any one location. The boundaries of the unit clearly meet the road definition in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Congress directed the Bureau to inventory roadless areas, and roadless areas cannot be combined in the inventory without violating that mandate.

Unit Number: 1-64

Unit Name: Twin Buttes

Description

Size: 22,080 acres.

Location: Fifteen miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6184, 6104 and 6194.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has generally flat to low rolling terrain, with minor rims at several locations within the unit. The most noticeable geographic feature is the northern butte of the Twin Buttes in the southwest corner of the unit. The unit contains several small dry lakebeds. The vegetation is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains two minor ways leading to water developments and a small mining area on the eastern boundary. However, it remains in a generally natural condition unaffected by the works of man.

Solitude: Though there is minor topographic relief in portions of the northern end of the unit, the generally flat to rolling contours with no vegetation for screening leave a person exposed to the presence of others within the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreaton: The unit has no outstanding features or points of interest which would focus visitor attention or present any outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Lakebeds in the unit may possess some archeological values, although none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions and one suggests that Unit 1-64 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of it is combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit is in a generally natural condition, it does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is bounded by roads, and the existence of those roads must be recognized in the inventory. Congress directed the Bureau to inventory roadless areas. Therefore, units cannot be combined and inventoried as though the roads did not exist.

Unit Number: 1-65

Unit Name: Saunders Rim

Description

Size: Approximately 17,000 acres.

Location: About 17 miles north of Lake Abert.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains sage basins, a few low rolling hills, and rims. Saunders Rim is the most significant feature in the unit. It is located in the eastern portion of the unit and rises approximately 250 feet. There are three lakebeds in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness review.

Naturalness: The unit has four lakebed pits, a well, six miles of fence and a way. These intrusions do not significantly affect the naturalness of the unit. A 500 KV powerline located adjacent to the east boundary is substantially noticeable from approximately 20 percent of the unit. The majority of the unit is in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit provides only a minor degree of solitude because of small size, lack of significant topographic relief and absence of vegetative screening. One could not easily avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit has only minimal opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation. There are some opportunities for hunting and trapping but they are not outstanding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions, and one suggests that Unit 1-65 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation if it is combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the criteria for a wilderness study area. The unit is in a generally natural condition; however, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation or solitude. Roadless areas cannot be combined in the wilderness inventory because Congress directed the Bureau to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-67

Unit Name: Nub

Description

Size: 6,520 acres.

Location: About 13 miles north of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of sage flats with low hills offering slight topographic relief. There is one lakebed and four reservoirs in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three ways, one and one-fourth miles of fenceline, and four reservoirs in the unit. These intrusions are somewhat noticeable; however, the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The size of the unit, in conjunction with the topographic exposure and low vegetation, limits a person's opportunity for solitude. One could not experience outstanding solitude.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are limited within the unit. Hunting and trapping are the primary recreational activities; however, these values are not considered to be outstanding within the unit.

Supplemental Values: There may be archaeological sites in the unit, but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions and one suggests that Unit 1-67 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of it is combined with Units 1-49, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the wilderness study area criteria. The unit appears relatively free from the imprints of man. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of the small size of the unit and limits of topography. The unit cannot be combined with other units in the inventory because Congress directed the Bureau of inventory roadless areas. Unit 1-67 is bounded by roads. If it were combined with other units, the area inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-71

Unit Name: Grays Butte

Description

Size: 25,040 acres.

Location: Immediately east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: The west boundary is Highway 395 and a road which crosses the highway on the southwest. The remaining boundaries are County Road 3-10 and BLM Roads 6165, 7155, 7155 A and 6125. In some of the areas the roads have been padded to assure access in construction, and, because of terrain, evidence of construction may not be obvious.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is long and narrow, running along the northern end of the Abert Rim north of Hogback Road. The unit is 20 miles long and from one to three miles wide. The main feature is a long stretch of the northern Abert Rim ending just north of Grays Butte. The entire unit above the rim is sagebrush flats one-half to one mile wide. On the west the flats are covered with a crested wheatgrass seeding east of Highway 395.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The portions of the unit above the rim are in a generally natural condition, with the exception of six small reservoirs which are so dispersed as to be substantially unnoticeable. Those portions of the unit west of the rim are highly disturbed with crested wheatgrass seeding developments at the Highway Well rest area, and a developed cattle camp below Grays Butte on the north. The unit is heavily affected by the works of man on the west and does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: The unit offers no reasonable opportunity for solitude to the west of the rim with the immediate presence of Highway 395 and the existing developments which receive intensive use. Above the rim to the east, the flat terrain and narrow shape preclude any potential for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers little other than hunting in the way of recreation potential. The cliffs are not suitable for rock climbing and the narrow nature of the unit leaves one so exposed to either the highway or other persons in the area that there is no unconfined area with recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: The unit supports approximately 14 head of bighorn sheep.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is not in natural condition and lacks any potential for solitude. The potential for primitive recreation activities is also constrained.

Unit Number: 1-72

Unit Name: Juniper Mountain

Subunits: The unit contains 11,760 acres. During the intensive inventory, two roads were identified which divide the unit into three subunits. Subunit B has 1,160 acres, and subunit C has approximately 4,160 acres. These subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-72A

Description

Size: 6,440 acres.

Location: Three miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM Roads. A two-mile deadend road extends into the subunit to the top of Juniper Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a large cone-shaped mountain rising from a sagebrush plain. The mountain has a dense cover of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: The entire subunit is dominated by the works of man and is not in a natural condition. It contains a large cattle camp development, four miles of ways, four reservoirs, and a wildlife guzzler. These features as well as a fenceline across the subunit dominate the area.

Solitude: The small size of the subunit and its exposure, even considering the juniper cover on the mountain, allow no significant degree of solitude anywhere in the subunit.

Recreation: The unit contains several types of wildlife and provides a vantage point from which to view the scenery of the surrounding country. However, the large number of human developments in the area prevents the recreation experience from being wilderness in character.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain archeological values not yet documented and has high wildlife values, especially for birding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring wtih the propposed decision.

Final decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit does not meet the criteria for naturalness, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-73

Unit Name: Packsaddle Draw

Description

Size: 18,680 acres.

Location: Eight miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6110, 6120 A and 6130. The eastern portion of 6110 is adjacent to private land, and some sections are in poor condition.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is located in moderately rolling terrain dropping off sharply in the eastern third to Dry Valley. The major geographic feature is Packsaddle Draw, which runs east to west through the center of the unit. The draw contains some prominent erosion features and basalt outcrops, but remains less than 100 feet deep. The western third of the unit is a much flatter sagebrush area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a fenced enclosure in the western corner which is substantially noticeable in much of the western third of the unit. The unit contains approximately 15 miles of vehicle ways. Nearly half of these ways are heavily used and their visibility through the unit makes them highly noticeable. There are five reservoirs in drainages which are significant features in small areas but do not create a substantial cumulative impact. It would be difficult for a visitor to avoid the cumulative presence of all the ways, fences and reservoirs. The works of man are substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: Portions of Packsaddle Draw would offer a person some degree of solitude, but these areas are small and would not represent an outstanding opportunity. Because of the unit's narrow width (one to four miles) and topography and the general exposure across the unit, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person would be readily influenced by others within this unit.

Recreation: The draw area offers some potential for hiking and wildlife observation as well as hunting. The opportunities presented in the unit are not outstanding within the region.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some archeological values though not currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not remain primarily natural in appearance as the works of man are substantially noticeable throughout the unit. The unit also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-74

Unit Name: Juniper Creek

Description

Size: 23,280 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles east of Alkali Lake.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6110, 6155 D, 6165, 6185 and 7155.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is sagebrush covered rolling hills and draws with several small to medium-sized ephemeral lake beds. The highest point in the unit is Turpin Knoll, which rises a few hundred feet above the surrounding terrain. The eastern third of the unit contains one substantial broad draw known as Macs Draw and some low hills and ridges. There are no dramatic topographic features on the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately ten miles of fenceline and one fenced enclosure in the northwest corner of the unit. The unit contains 13 miles of vehicle ways. A major way listed as 6165 D on the district transportation plan is considerably noticeable of itself and has had sections maintained in the past. The unit contains 11 drainage reservoirs and one major lakebed water development. The south half of the unit and portions west of Turpin Knoll do not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature because the human developments are very evident. The northern half east of Turpin Knoll is generally natural in appearance.

Solitude: The topography provides limited degrees of solitude at some locations within the unit. These areas are not of sufficient size or quality to offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunities for hunting and very limited areas for pursuit of activities such as hiking or nature study. Within the unit there are no outstanding opportunities for recreational experiences of a primitive nature.

Supplemental Values: The area may have some archeological values, however none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition because the works of man are substantially noticeable. The area also lacks any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-75

Unit Name: Egan Cabin

Description

Size: 6,240 acres.

Location: Approximately 35 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 6165 and spurs of 6165.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a slightly rolling sage flat deeply cut by four drainages opening to the south into Kit Canyon. The north half of the unit is quite flat. The maximum canyon depth on the south end is approximately 300 feet. Vegetation in the unit is a sagebrush community with scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains three reservoirs and several small ways along the west side of the unit. There is minimal disturbance around the Egan Cabin area. The unit remains apparently natural and the works of man are not substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: The canyons in the unit will provide a visitor to the unit with some degree of solitude. The small size of the unit and the limited extent to which the canyon system would shield one from the presence of others in the unit do not provide what could be considered an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The high degree of exposure on the majority of the unit is not offset by the qualities of the canyons.

Recreation: The unit would present an opportunity for hunting and wildlife observation with a limited opportunity for hiking the canyons. The exposure and small size of the unit would not allow for an outstanding opportunity to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Though the unit does offer some topographic screening, the opportunity for solitude would be limited by the size of the unit and is not outstanding. The unit also lacks what could be considered any outstanding opportunities to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit does not contain a feature or element which would draw people to the unit to the extent that the opportunities for recreation would be considered to stand above others of their kind.

Unit Number: 1-79

Unit Name: Balls Lake

Description

Size: 6,000 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre block of State land in the north end of the unit south of Balls Lake.

Location: 28 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7165 and 7165 B encircle the unit.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a sage flat with some low rolling terrain cut through in places by the upper reaches of Buckhorn Canyon. Within the unit the canyon constitutes a minor draw opening to the east boundary of the unit. Balls Lake occupies the northwest corner of the unit and contains two large lakebed pits.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: The lakebed pits in Balls Lake are considerably noticeable in the northern portion of the unit. In the west-central portion of the unit there is a way approximately two miles going to Central Reservoirs Number 1 and 2. The reservoirs are located in the draws forming the upper end of Buckhorn Canyon. The way and the reservoirs are substantially noticeable works of man in the interior of the unit. The southern half of the unit remains essentially natural.

Solitude: The draws offer some degree of solitude and isolation. The remaining flat and undulating portions of the unit do not present adequate means of avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides marginal opportunities for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. The small size of the unit and lack of any significant feature of interest for recreation limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed dicision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The northern half of the unit is not substantially free of the works of man. The unit is small and its topography and vegetation do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit also lacks any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation activities.

Unit Number: 1-80

Unit Name: Twin Lakes

Description

Size: 17,920 acres.

Location: Five miles northwest of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: The boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Vegetation is the unit is mainly big sagebrush and associated species. Topography consists of sage flats with low, rolling hills providing little topographic variation across the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: The unit contains five lakebed pits, four noticeable ways on the perimeters and a 1330-acre drilled seeding in the southeast corner. Twin Lakes Reservoir on the west side of the unit is a particularly noticeable development. This unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is not primarily in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very limited because in most places a person can see completely across the unit. Under these circumstances, one could not avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: Recreation potential is severely limited by the size and exposure of the unit. Hunting potential is moderate on the unit. The area lacks features which might provide any exceptional recreation experience. The unit offers no outstanding recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions and one suggests that Unit 1-80 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation if it is combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear natural and free from the imprints of man's work. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is bounded by roads. Congress directed the Bureau to inventory roadless areas. Therefore, roadless areas connot be combined in the inventory.

Unit Number: 1-82

Unit Name: North Euchre Butte

Description

Size: 22,600 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: The east boundary is BLM Road 7114 which also serves as a maintenance road for a BPA 500-KV D.C. powerline. The remaining boundary roads are BLM Roads 6114, 6104 and 6184.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains rolling terrain with moderately high broken basalt rims and draws. The general appearance of the unit is one of open, exposed sagebrush flats. There are ten ephemeral lake beds scattered through the unit, five of which have developed lakebed pits. The west side of the unit has approximately 4,000 acres of drilled seeding as the result of a fire rehabilitation project. The remaining vegetation on the unit is a sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The drilled seeding has a substantial effect on the west side of the unit and does not appear generally natural due to the drilling. A 500-KV powerline along the entire length of the east boundary is a significant impact on naturalness through approximately 40 percent of the unit on the east side. The unit also contains approximately ten miles of ways which go to several lakebeds in the unit with pit developments. The unit also contains seven miles of fenceline which run through the middle of the unit. The overall effect of all the works of man is that this unit does not appear generally natural; the works of man are very noticeable through the unit.

Solitude: The rolling contours in portions of the unit offer only a minimal opportunity for solitude. The remaining flat portions of the unit would not offer one an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. This unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some potential for hunting but would not provide any significant opportunities for other types of primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions and one suggests that Unit 1-82 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation if it is combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Roadless areas cannot be combined in the inventory because Congress directed the Bureau to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined, the inventoried areas would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-85

Unit Name: Eagle Butte

Description

Size: 13,220 acres.

Location: Two and one-half miles south of Juniper Mountain.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7155, 7155 H, 6165 and 6165 C.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains sage flats and a few minor rolling hills which add slight topographic relief to the unit. Eagle Butte is a small butte in the southeast corner of the unit. There are eight ephemeral lake basins in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has six miles of ways which are not very noticeable and have not been maintained. A way going east to west across the unit was referred to as a road in a public comment received during the initial inventory. Field investigation found the route in poor condition showing no evidence of maintenance; it is still considered a way. There are 11 lakebed pits in the unit which vary in size and are scattered throughout the unit. The lakebed pits by Badger Hole Draw represent an imprint of man that is extremely evident. The 11 lakebed pits have significant cumulative effects because of the small size of the unit and the dispersion of the developments through the unit. The unit is not considered to meet the naturalness criteria as the works of man are evident in the unit.

Solitude: The small size of the unit, its flat terrain and lack of vegetative screening preclude any opportunity for an outstanding feeling of solitude in the unit. A person could not avoid the sights and sounds of others in this unit.

Recreation: The unit has potential for hunting, trapping and wildlife observation but the opportunites are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Potential exists for archeologic values but none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-86

Unit Name: Natural Corral Draw

Description

Size: 12,500 acres of public land. There is an inholding of 40 acres of private land in Sagehen Lake.

Location: Approximately 24 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6165, 6165 C, 6185 and 7155.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a sagebrush flat located two miles east of Juniper Mountain. There are nine ephemeral lake beds in the unit, the largest being Sagehen Lake. The unit has only low rolling hills to offer any topographic relief.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Ten lakebed pits present a significant impact on the unit, considering the concentration of development with relation to the size of the unit. Four ways and a spring development are not significantly noticeable because of the location and design of the projects. The impacts in the unit make it marginal in terms of naturalness because man's works are substantially noticeable in the unit.

Solitude: With the low vegetative cover, the moderate size of the unit and the lack of significant topographic relief, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person in the unit would be able to achieve some sense of solitude but only a very small group or low number of visitors could enter the unit and remain separate from others. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity.

Recreation: This unit is typical of the region as a whole and lacks any internal characteristics which would lead to an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation potential. The area would support some hunting activity, but is not well suited for backpacking or similar activity.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values are known though there may be some potential for archeological sites in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the criterion for naturalness and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-87

Unit Name: Horseshoe Rim

Description

Size: 21,000 acres of public land. There are approximately 900 acres of private land in two locations near the boundary.

Location: Approximately 10 miles north of the Rabbit Hills.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of low rolling, sage-covered hills. Portions of an ancient lakebed are located just west of the Sunstone Mine area. The unit contains two distinctive geologic features, Horseshoe Rim and the Horseshoe.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way crosses the southeast corner of the unit and follows the dike of the ancient lakebed to Sherlock Reservoir. It is only a minor intrusion and is not very noticeable. The southern end of the unit has numerous jeep trails created by sunstone collectors. The majority of the unit appears generally natural, and free from the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude. One would find it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others because the unit lacks significant topographic relief and vegetative cover. There is a limited opportunity for solitude in the Horseshoe Rim area.

Recreation: The unit provides opportunities for rockhounding, hunting and limited potential for hiking. With the exception of the Horseshoe Rim area the topography in this area is extremely flat and exposed, and does not offer outstanding opportunities. The Horseshoe Rim area on the eastern side of the unit is a somewhat interesting geologic feature; however, size and topography limit recreation potential in this area.

Supplemental Values: Archaeological values may exist in the area, though none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of its size, even though its topography is essentially flat.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The terrain in this unit is open and exposed with the exception of one small portion of the unit in the "Horshoe" formation near the northeast corner. The flat sage-covered expanse, with no features or elements of recreation interest, severely limits potential in this unit. The unit, though generally natural in appearance, does not offer any outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-88

Unit Name: Sunstone Mine North

Description

Size: 29,360 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre state inholding near the west boundary of the unit.

Location: 18 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155, 6155 D, 6165, 6195 and 7145.

Physical Characteristics: The west and south portions of the unit are low rolling sage hills and sage flats. The central and eastern portions of the unit consist of low hills and draws with rock rim exposures in portions of the draws. There is a rim several hundred feet high along the east edge of the unit. The unit contains three moderate sized dry lakebeds with several small ephemeral lakes scattered through the unit. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush and associated species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven water developments scattered through the unit. These reservoirs and lakebed pits are all substantially noticeable in a limited area around each development, but they do not significantly detract from the generally natural appearance of the unit as a whole. There are 14 miles of ways in the unit. The central portion of the unit contains one north-to-south way across the entire unit. This way is very visible for its entire length. The majority of the unit remains in an apparently natural condition. The developments are substantially unnoticeable because they are scattered and reasonably well screened by the topography.

Solitude: There are isolated areas in the unit where one could experience some degree of solitude. The highly exposed nature of the west and southern portions of the unit precludes any opportunity for solitude in these areas. The central and eastern portions, although offering some solitude, do not provide an outstanding opportunity. A person could avoid the presence of limited numbers of other people in the unit; however, anything above a very low visitor density would eliminate the solitude potential of the unit.

Recreation: The unit would offer some potential in the central and eastern sections for hiking and limited backpack trips. Portions of the area are scenic to some degree and would provide some points of interest. However, in the context of the larger region, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation experiences of a primitive and unconfined nature.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to have some archeological values, although none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of public comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two suggest that the unit be a WSA. One suggests that the series of ridges and flats provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, and the other that the topography plus the size of the unti provide opportunities for soltidue.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Field checking of public comments led to a reaffirmation that, while a small portion on the east side of the unit does offer some opportunity for solitude, the opportunities are not outstanding. The more broken terrain on the east side by Corportation Rim offers a degree of solitude, but waterholes, ways and intrusions of mans works limit considerably the naturalness of the area. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit, but they are similar to others throughout eastern Oregon and do not stand above others of their kind.

Unit Number: 1-89

Unit Name: Bacon Camp

Description

Size: 5,560 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM roads number 6165D and 6155E.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is triangular in shape. The west side of the unit is a steep slope rising to a flat plateau in the center of the unit. The east and south portions are broken by rims and gulleys which descend to the bottom of Lynches Draw. Topographic relief in the unit amounts to several hundred feet of variation across the unit from west to east. Vegetation on the unit is big sagebrush.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets minimum requirements.

Naturalness: The unit has three moderate sized reservoirs in the northwest corner which have revegetated to a degree but are still substantially noticeable. There is a 200-acre sagebrush eradication project done in 1972 in Sections 31, 36 and 5 on the southwest side of the unit. The sagebrush kill remains substantially noticeable within the spray area. The majority of the unit outside of the listed areas remains in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit offers some topographic relief but on the flat plateau one would have difficulty avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The small size of the unit and its shape present a situation where most portions of the unit are fully exposed to the boundary areas, making any degree of solitude difficult to achieve. The unit does not present an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited hunting potential which would generally be a vehicle-associated activity in this area. The small size of the unit, limited topographic challenge, and exposure within the unit present only limited recreation potential. The unit does not offer outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is in a natural condition. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size, the exposure of the user to others within the unit, and the lack of features which might provide a significant recreation experience.

Unit Number: 1-90

Unit Name: Sunrise Canyon

Description

Size: 4,880 acres.

Location: Approximatley 30 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6155 and spurs.

Physical Characterisitcs: A ridgeline crosses the unit from north to south, where it breaks up on a basalt rim. The ridge is approximately 500 feet higher than the valleys to the east and west. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush with a few scattered juniper occuring on the north boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet the minimum size criterion, nor is it of sufficient size or appropriate shape to make practicable its preservation, use and management as wilderness.

Naturalness: The unit contains one reservoir and one and one-half mile of ways. A portion of the Kit Canyon seeding encroaches on the east side of the unit where it is a significant impact on the natural condition.

Solitude: The extremely narrow configuration of the unit in relation to its small size and minimal degree of topographic or vegetative cover precludes any opportunity for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers only limited opportunities for hunting and exploration of the area on foot. It does not offer any outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decison: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not satisfy any of the size criteria. It also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because its small size and configuration leave one exposed to others throughout the unit.

Unit Number: 1-93

Unit Name: Spine Cob Butte

Description

Size: 11,000 acres of public land. The unit contains 720 acres of state inholdings in parcels in the center and northeast corner of the unit.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM roads 7165 and spurs 7165A and 7165B.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a high sage flat with minor canyons and draws in the north portion of the unit. Spine Cob Butte, a minor rock outcrop on a low rise, is the highest point in the unit. The unit contains two lakebeds. A third lakebed, larger than those within the unit, is located on a state inholding in the center of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three fairly large reservoirs in the south half of the unit. They are substantially noticeable throughout the south portion of the unit below Spine Cob Butte. The northern half of the unit appears generally natural as the works of man are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The broad flat expanses of the unit make it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. In addition the unit lacks the vegetation and the size which could provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Exposure is great over the majority of the unit and it offers no feature representing an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The unit does offer some opportunity for hunting; however, it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Some archeological values may exist, but none are yet documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is not substantially free of the works of man in the southern half. The flat topography and small size relative to the topography do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit lacks any significant opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because a visitor would be apparent to others in the unit and there is no point or feature of reference representing an outstanding recreation potential.

Unit Number: 1-94

Unit Name: Poker Jim Flat

Description

Size: 14,360 acres of public land. The unit contains a 160-acre private inholding in the southwest corner.

Location: 24 miles northeast of Plush.

Boundaries: The south boundary of the unit is defined by private land and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge land. The contiguous lands in the refuge have been recommended for wilderness designation by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Roads form the west boundary and the northeast boundary is BLM Road 7165A.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a triangular shaped piece of land on sage flats north of Bluejoint Dry Lake and below Poker Jim Rim. The remaining acreage is on a high sage flat above Poker Jim Rim and north of the Hart Mountain Refuge boundary. The portion of the rim dividing the unit is approximately 600 feet high. The land above and below the rim is very flat and sage covered. There is one dry lakebed in the unit near the east boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Above the rim a way runs through the unit for approximately four miles. A lakebed water hole is located in the southeast corner of the unit. There is a way crossing the lower portion of the unit just north of Bluejoint Lake. The unit also contains approximately one and one-half miles of fenceline near the south boundary. These developments are substantially noticeable and affect the border areas on the northeast and south of the unit. The majority of the unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: It is difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit because of the low vegetation and lack of topographic relief both above and below the rim. The rim would prevent people on one part of the unit from affecting those in the other; however, neither part would offer any substantial degree of solitude. The unit, therefore, does not offer outstanding opportunities for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The Poker Jim Rim offers a highly interesting geologic and scenic feature; however, only a small portion of the rim occurs within the unit. The rim does not offer any physical recreation potential as the terrain within the unit is not very suitable for climbing or hiking activities. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation because of the small size of the sub-parts and the flat terrain on each.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains the geologic feature of the rim and potentially contains archeological values not presently recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that walking along Orejana and Poker Jim Ridges represents an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not offer outstanding potential for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Although the very south tip of the unit is adjacent to the Poker Jim Rim Wilderness proposal of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM lands in this unit are of a considerably different character. The alkali flats below the rim offer no solitude potential nor do the sage flats east of the rim. The portion of the rim on BLM land is not as high nor as rugged as the portion on the refuge. The unit likewise lacks the character of the Orejana Canyon unit to the north.

Unit Number: 1-95

Unit Name: ZX Ranch

Description

Size: 21,120 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre private inholding.

Location: Approximately three miles northeast of Paisley.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6134, 6124, or 51, County Road 4-20 and private lands.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains sage flats in the southern and western portions. The majority of the unit contains rolling hills and draws. The vegetative cover is representative of the sagebrush community. Desert saltbrush is found on the western portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains four lakebed pits, six miles of ways and approximately eight miles of fenceline. The impacts of man are not substantially noticeable within the majority of the unit because the developments are located on its periphery.

Solitude: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size, lack of vegetative screening and exposure of an individual to others within the unit.

Recreation: This unit offers only limited hunting opportunities. Other recreational opportunities within the unit are extremely poor.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and three oppose it. None of the comments opposing the decision provide any information about or evaluation of the unit's wilderness characteristics. One suggests that the unit's location adjacent to Unit 1-58 will provide opportunities for solitude that Unit 1-95 lacks when considered on its own. Another suggests that Unit 1-95 be combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-96, 1-98 and 1-101 in order to form a large WSA which would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Final decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in a generally natural condition. However, it offers poor opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size and the unscreened exposure of visitors to others in the unit. The unit cannot be combined in the inventory with other units because Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. This unit is bounded by roads and private lands. If it were combined with other units, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-96

Unit Name: Coglan Buttes

Description

Size: 32,000 acres.

Location: Four miles west of Abert Lake.

Boundaries: BLM roads and a county road. On the northwest portion of the unit, minor portions are defined by private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes the steep cliffs of Coglan Buttes on the west border and broad, low-angle slopes descending toward Abert Lake to the east of the cliffs. The majority of the unit is broad, sagebrush-covered flats with very little topographic relief.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 23 miles of ways. A way from the north boundary road to Shores Waterhole is not identified as a road but some blade work has been done. The way is also in very good condition. Shores Waterhole in Section 8 represents a substantial impact over an area of approximately 2,560 acres due to its large size. There are five water reservoirs, several watering stations, and a guzzler in the unit; collectively, these significantly impact the unit's naturalness. Also, the unit contains a radio repeater site. With the basically flat topography and the general exposure of all the listed intrusions, the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening the unit has only minimal potential for solitude. The cliffs of Coglan Buttes offer isolated sites where solitude could be achieved. The unit does not offer opportunities for outstanding solitude. It would be very difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers little opportunity for unconfined, primitive recreation with the exception of the Coglan Buttes area. The cliffs of Coglan Buttes offer some opportunity for birding, especially raptor observation in the spring months. The flats above the cliff have moderate hunting potential, but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area would be expected to possess some archaeological and geological values, though none are presently identified.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. The latter two do not provide any information about or positive evaluations of the unit's wilderness characteristics. One suggests that Unit 1-95 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation if it were combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not entirely meet the naturalness criteria because intrusions on naturalness are dispersed through the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude nor primitive and unconfined recreation. Public comment suggesting combining units is beyond the scope of the wilderness inventory.

Unit Number: 1-98

Unit Name: Abert Burn South

Description

Size: 18,200 acres.

Location: Five miles north of Valley Falls.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6154 and 6104 and State Highway 31 on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit essentially consists of a large fault block with a steep escarpment on the west. The eastern side of the unit contains a low angle slope falling away to the shore of Abert Lake on the east boundary. The unit is sagebrush covered, except for a crested wheatgrass seeding on the northeast. The topography consists of rugged rims and erosion features on the west with flat terrain on the eastern slopes. The slope is broken by minor erosion gullies.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: Approximately 2,400 acres in the northeast portion is part of the Abert Burn Seeding. The old Hotchkiss Road crosses the central portion of the unit with old cut banks in places and considerable scarring on the west. This unit also contains a gravel pit and way in Section 12 on the southwest. With the exposure across the eastern portion of the unit and the appearance of intrusions, the unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The buttes and side canyons on the west side of the unit do offer limited opportunities for solitude. The east side of the unit, with broad expanses of flat terrain with little vegetative cover or topographic relief, does not offer any real degree of solitude. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for wildlife observation, especially raptorial birds on the west side cliffs. The relatively small size in relation to the narrow shape of the unit limits the degree to which one could pursue activities such as backpacking and hiking. The unit does not offer outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to contain some archeological values though none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decisions and one suggests that Unit 1-98 would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation if it were combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, 1-98, and 1-101 (Unit 1-101 is not adjacent to the others).

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be in a primarily natural condition unaffected by the works of man because of the seeding in the north and ways in the central and southern portion. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited on the unit and are not considered outstanding in nature. The unit is bounded by roads. It cannot be combined with other units in the inventory because Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If the units were combined, the area inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-101

Unit Name: Abert Rim

Description

Size: 22,880 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 280 acres in the south end of the unit near Colvin Timber.

Location: Three miles northeast of Valley Falls.

Boundaries: The south and southwest boundaries are private land. The west boundary is Highway 395. The north boundary is a road associated with a 500-KV powerline. The remaining boundary is defined by BLM Roads 6135 and 6145.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a long narrow unit which encompasses the majority of the Abert Rim. The rim is a unique geologic feature representing the largest fault scarp in North America, rising more than 2,000 feet above Lake Abert. The majority of the unit is sagebrush flats above the rim. The unit contains Colvin Timbers, a remnant stand of ponderosa pine which is the northernmost timber in the Warner Mountains. The southeast portion contains some low basalt cliffs and drainages with juniper stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 17 stock reservoirs, three wildlife guzzlers, and three spring developments. Several of these scattered developments are noticeable within their immediate vicinity, but do not have a substantial effect on the unit as a whole. This is also true for a fence and closed vehicle way in and south of the Mule Lake area and ways and ditches in and near the Colvin Timbers area. The majority of the unit is in a generally natural appearance. The exception is in the southeast corner of the unit, where a drainage ditch leading to private land is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: There are limited portions of the unit, notably along and west of Rabbit Creek, where terrain and vegetation allow for some degree of solitude. Entrenched drainages in the main scarp, such as at Poison Creek, also allow a degree of solitude. The flat areas which make up the majority of the unit east of the rim and along the highway below the rim offer only very limited opportunities for solitude. The unit does not generally offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The trail to the top of the rim along Poison Creek, and views along the top of the rim offer high quality scenic opportunities. The unit offers hunting and wildlife observation opportunities for upland game birds and game mammals as well as raptorial birds and other species.

Supplemental Values: The Abert Rim is the largest fault scarp in North America. The unit also contains archeologic sites and the stand of ponderosa at Colvin Timbers.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-two comments were received. Three concur with the proposed decision and one of them provides information and discusses the absence of naturalness and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Nineteen comments oppose the proposed decision. Of these, there are nine which do not provide any information abote the unit or any positive evaluations of its characteristics. Of the others, four specifically argue that the effects of human activiities are substantially unnoticeable. Five comments argue that the rim does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, or both. One comment suggests that the opportunities for hiking and sightseeing are outstanding. Two comments suggest that Unit 1-101 should be a WSA because of its supplemental values, and another suggests that in order to protect Abert Rim. One comments suggests that Unit 1-101 be combined with Units 1-59, 1-60, 1-62, 1-64, 1-65, 1-67, 1-80, 1-82, 1-95, 1-96, and 1-98 in order to form a larger WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Designate a 22,240-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 640 acres of public land in the southeast corner. A bladed road extends from the east side of the unit to private land in the southeast corner; and a substantially noticeable drainage ditch extends from the private land to the south boundary. The road, private land, and ditch isolate the 640 acres of public land from the rest of the unit.

Rationale: When the proposed decision was issued, it was believed that the imprints of man were substantially noticeable and that the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. After examining public comments and re-evaluating the unit in the field, we have reversed our earlier assessments. Several of the developments are noticeable as one approaches them, but their overall effect on the unit as a whole is not substantial. We also agree that the 2,000-foot high Abert Rim offers outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Unit Number: 1-102

Unit Name: Binkie Lake

Description

Size: 13,440 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles north of Lakeview.

Boundaries: The east and north boundaries are a road associated with a Bonneville Power Administration 500-KV powerline. The west and south boundaries are BLM Roads 6135 and 6145.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a sagebrush covered flat which slopes slightly downward to the east. Twin Lakes and Binkie Lake are ephemeral lakes in shallow depression. The minor lake depressions are the only topographic relief of note in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains four short, yet obvious ways to water developments, 14 water developments, six pits, eight reservoirs. It is substantially affected by the 500-KV powerline running along the east side.

The cumulative effects of these intrusions, given the size of the unit and its terrain, prevent this unit from meeting the naturalness criteria. The impacts of man's works are substantially noticeable throughout the unit and it does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The extremely flat nature of the unit, with its narrow configuration and lack of vegetation, leaves one obviously exposed to the sights and sounds of others in the unit and does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hunting, especially antelope; however, the nature of the unit severely limits potential for the backpacker, hiker or sightseer who wishes to pursue a primitive experience.

Supplemental Values: There is potential for archeological values on the unit, though no documentation currently exists.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Seven comments were received. Three concur with the proposed decision. One of them discusses the lack of wilderness characteristics in the unit. Four comments oppose the proposed decision. Two of these comments suggest that the unit be a WSA because of its supplemental values: one, in order to protect access to Abert Rim; and the other argues that the rim provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is not in an essentially natural condition because of the cumulative effects of the powerline and the large number of obvious imprints of the works of man. The unit is also lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit does not contain any portion of the Abert rim. It is separated from Unit 1-101, the unit containing the rim, by a road. BLM was directed by Congress to inventory roadless areas; and during the inventory, each roadless area must be evaluated on its own merits. Issues such as access to potential wilderness areas will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review.

Unit Number: 1-106

Unit Name: Flint Hills

Description

Size: 23,840 acres.

Location: The unit is located about 14 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM roads and Hogback Road.

Physical Characteristics: Flint Hills and Flint Ridge in the north portion of the unit are the major topographic features. They rise approximately 300 feet above the surrounding land. The remaining portion of the unit contains low, rolling hills and basins with sagebrush cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are eight ways and four small lakebed pits on the unit. These intrusions significantly impair the naturalness of the unit. The majority of the unit has been severely affected by the works of man.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening, one cannot avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: There is limited potential for hiking and hunting in the unit. Outstanding values for primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist within the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archaeological values but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received, all concurring with the proposed decision. One of them discusses the lack of wilderness characteristics within the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit has been substantially affected by the works of man and does not meet the naturalness criteria. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation or solitude.

Unit Number: 1-108

Unit Name: Rabbit Hills

Subunits: The unit contains 15,360 acres. During the intensive inventory roads were identified which divide the north end of the unit into five subunits, which include a total of 3,520 acres. None of the five subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria and none of them is described below. The sixth subunit contains 11,840 acres and is described below.

Subunit Number: 1-108F

Description

Size: 11,840 acres.

Location: 17 miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: The boundaries on the north, south and east are BLM roads. The eastern boundary is Hogback road. A road intrudes into the center of the subunit where it degenerates into a way.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit includes the Rabbit Hills and a portion of Rabbit Basin, a dry lakebed on the north. The Rabbit Hills rise approximately 900 feet above the surrounding sage flats. There are some erosion features in the north which mark an ancient lake margin. The southern portions contain a gentle slope which descends to a basin between Rabbit and Coyote Hills. The vegetative cover is big sage.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The intrusion road is substantially noticeable from the center portion of the subunit. There are three miles of ways in the northern portion of the subunit, two miles of fences, and a few stock watering tanks. These intrusions are all substantially unnoticeable. The majority of acreage within the subunit appears to be in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The gentle contours of the hills in the central portion of the subunit and low angle slopes on the south, in combination with the low vegetative cover and configuration, leave one exposed to the presence of other persons within the subunit. It is not possible to experience an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the subunit.

Recreation: There is a potential for rockhounding, hiking, and photography in the subunit. The opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation are not outstanding because the subunit is highly exposed, lacks scenic values and unique character.

Supplemental Values: The subunit does offer some value for rockhounding. The potential for archaeological values is also present.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received, all concurring with the proposed decision. One of them discusses the lack of wilderness characteristics within the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of the topographic exposure and lack of vegetative screening.

Unit Number: 1-114

Unit Name: Warner Lakes

Description

Size: 33,680 acres.

Location: Approximately ten miles north of Plush.

Boundaries: County Road 3-16 on the west and County Road 3-11 on the south. The remaining boundaries of the unit are defined by private land or Fish and Wildlife Service land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains Flagstaff Lake and four dry lakes to the north. The lakes are all ephemeral, Flagstaff Lake being the only one currently containing water. The land surrounding the lakes consists of hummocks, dunes and a maze of dry drainage channels between the lakebeds. The northern half of the unit is an alkali flat primarily vegetated with greasewood.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are minor ways at several locations within the unit which are readily washed out by storms because of the sandy conditions in the area. There is a way that is commonly used along the north boundary of Flagstaff Lake and is quite evident along its route. There is also a way into the north end of Turpin Lake. The area as a whole is not significantly affected by the works of man and remains in a primarily natural condition.

Solitude: The generally flat character of the unit, in combination with limited vegetative cover, limits the opportunity for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. It is possible for a person to see completely across the unit and any other persons in the unit would be observed.

Recreation: The pothole areas around the dry lakes might provide some opportunity for day hikes and nature study; however, the opportunity is not considered outstanding in this unit. If the lakes and intervening areas were aquatic habitat, the area would offer more potential for recreation activities. The area historically has been a dry basin, however, and periods of standing water in the basin have been brief in duration and rare in occurrence. The unit is not considered to possess outstanding recreation potential.

Supplemental Values: Potential for archeological values exists in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision, and fifteen oppose it. Ten of the fifteen comments which suggest that the unit be a WSA do not provide any information about the unit, or positive evaluations of the unit's wilderness characteristics. Two of the comments argue that the values described do offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. One suggests that the opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the unit's proximity to the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed Poker Jim Ridge wilderness area. One comment suggests that the unit be a WSA because of its unique ecology and proximity to Poker Jim Ridge, and another argues that the dunes, playas, and lakes provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: As stated in the initial recommendation and addressed by public comment, the unit is in a generally natural appearance. The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the flat terrain and modest size. The hummock areas between the lakes offer only limited screening from the evidence of others in the unit. The lakebeds are extremely exposed areas offering in effect no opportunity for solitude. The unit is separated from the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed wilderness on Poker Jim Rim by private lands and a road. The unit's terrain and vegetation also is much different from that on Poker Jim Rim. A public comment stated that the lakes contain water north of Flagstaff Lake on a short-term basis, with very long, dry periods in the interim. The lakes filled in 1980, as pointed out in a public comment. The lakes were dry at the end of May 1980; but in June, water had entered to the south end of Bluejoint Lake. The county water master and local residents report that the lakes generally fill on approximately a five-year cycle. Though it appears water is present to provide a somewhat better recreation potential than believed at the time the proposed decision was issued, we continue to believe that, because the lakes fill only unfrequently, there is not enough water or aquatic vegetation to provide for a truly outstanding recreation potential.

Unit Number: 1-115

Unit Name: Guano Slough

Subunits: The unit contains 106,480 acres. During the intensive inventory Unit 115 was found to be divided by roads 7155 A and B into two subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-115A

Description

Size: Approximately 47,360 acres of public land. The subunit contains three full sections of state land and a 960-acre block of private land.

Location: The unit is adjacent to the east boundary of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: Frenchglen Road and the boundary of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 7185B, 7185C, 6176H and private lands.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of sage flats on the east and low rolling hills with some small broken rims on the west. The highest point on the unit is Cox Butte which rises some 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. Vegetation on the unit is a big sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine major lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle ways. The overall appearance remains generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: With the flat to moderately rolling terrain in the unit and high visibility of persons moving within it, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit possesses no characteristic landscape feature or particular point of interest which would appeal to the general wilderness recreationist. The unit has a high potential for antelope hunting but this would not be considered a form of primitive recreation as practiced in the region because it depends on motor vehicles.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. See the end of the description of this unit for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-115B

Description

Size: Approximately 59,120 acres of public land. There are two complete sections of state inholdings and approximately 680 acres of small scattered tracts of private land near the south boundary. These tracts are all less than 120 acres in size.

Location: Adjacent to the east side of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: The west boundary is the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and BLM Road 6176A. The remaining boundaries are private and state lands, and BLM Roads 6176, 7185 and 7185C. BLM road 7185A from Cox Butte Waterhole to Socket Waterhole intrudes into the subunit for approximately eight and a half miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is essentially a very broad sage covered basin with little topographic relief. Guano Slough and Black Canyon cross the southern third of the subunit. Black Canyon is approximately six miles long, approximately 100 feet deep at the maximum and less than several hundred feet at the widest point. The canyon has vertical basalt walls along most of its length with several small side canyons. The subunit contains numerous ephemeral lakes. Most have been developed to provide stock water.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The dead-end road mentioned under boundaries is very noticeable. The subunit contains eight moderate to large lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle ways. There is an emergency airfield located near the south boundary. There is a small quarry site two miles west of Guano Reservoir. The man-made features have a minor cumulative impact on the unit; however they remain substantially unnoticeable because of the large size of the subunit.

Solitude: A person would have a feeling of isolation in the unit but the arrival of others in the area would be immediately noted. One could hike in Black Canyon and gain some sense of solitude but only extremely limited user capacity would allow for solitude. This subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The Black Canyon area is of some geologic interest and offers opportunity for wildlife observation, notably of cliff dwelling birds. However, the opportunity is not considered outstanding. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the unit are not outstanding because there is no unique or noteworthy feature which would attract recreationists and cause the recreation opportunities to stand above others of their kind.

Supplemental Values: Black Canyon is of some geologic interest and the area would be expected to contain some archeological sites though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and seventeen are opposed to all or part of it. Twelve comments suggest that Subunit 1-115B be identified as a WSA. Ten of them do not provide any information about the subunit or make positive evaluations of its wilderness values. Two suggest that Black Canyon provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and for solitude. One comment suggests that both Subunit 1-115A and Subunit 1-115B be identified as WSAs because their size provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Four comments refer only to the unit as a whole. Two do not provide any information. One suggests that Black Canyon provides supplemental values as well as opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The fourth comment argues that the fact that interest in the unit would be concentrated at Black Canyon should not be interpreted as a limitation of the opportunities for solitude provided by the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Rationale: After reviewing the public comments and re-evaluating the unit in the field, we continue to believe the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. The broad, open expanses of the unit as a whole offer very few opportunities to avoid others in the unit and little recreation opportunity. The canyon area does offer some recreation potential and limited opportunity for solitude, as stated in the initial evaluation. However, a joint re-assessment of the unit by Burns and Lakeview District personnel confirmed that, though the canyon offered some recreation potential, it was not outstanding in character.

Unit Number: 1-117

Unit Name: Monument Flat

Subunits: The unit contains 34,760 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found to be divided by a road into two subunits, both of which are described below. A portion of the dividing road has been closed because of erosion.

Subunit Number: 1-117A

Description

Size: 16,240 acres.

Location: Four miles north of Adel.

Boundaries: A 500-KV powerline road and private lands on the west. The remaining boundary is a wide, bladed and ditched BLM road which has been closed over approximately four miles of length due to extreme erosion. The closed portion of this road constitutes an extreme impact on naturalness and is therefore described as a boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit is a high sage flat with minor depressions and drainages. The vegetation is sage and grasses with scattered juniper trees on the east and at several spring locations in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The 500-KV powerline defining the west boundary has a substantial impact on naturalness in that area. The subunit contains a fenceline, 14 miles of vehicle ways and nine livestock reservoirs which cumulatively detract considerably from the natural appearance of the area. The subunit is marginal in meeting the criteria for naturalness.

Solitude: The broad expanse of sage flats offers minimal solitude. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The subunit offers only limited potential for primitive recreation. There are scenic views of the Warner Mountains outside the unit, but no significant scenic values within. The area would offer some potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The unit is not considered to offer outstanding potential for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental values: Some archeological values would be expected to be present, but none are documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. See the end of the description for the entire unit for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-117B

Description

Size: 18,520 acres.

Location: Immediately north of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is State Highway 140. The east boundary is primarily private land with portions deliniated by County Road 3-10. The west boundary is a combination of BLM Roads 7105, 7142, the closed portion of Road 7142, and private and state land. The northwest corner is defined by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is fairly narrow, containing portions of sage covered Monument Flat on the west. The southern end drops abruptly into Deep Creek Canyon and contains a small canyon, Sweeney Canyon. The eastern portion contains Lynch's Rim, a dramatic fault scarp which rises some 1,300 feet above the Warner Valley and Warner Lakes. Above the rim and within the subunit there are minor basalt scarps and the vegetation is generally dense with juniper and aspen groves, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush and bitterbrush, with an understory of Idaho fescue. The subunit contains Indian, Crump and Cleland Springs. Cleland Springs is an enclosed and developed spring.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A closed road which is returning to a natural appearance leads to a microwave tower in the southeast corner of the subunit. The microwave tower represents the most apparent work of man in the subunit. The way into Cleland Spring and Development at Cleland is noticeable, but only in the immediate area. The subunit also contains a TV repeater east of Cleland Springs. However, it is barely noticeable until the visitor is at the site. The topography and density of growth on the majority of the unit masks the works of man. The unit remains in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The topography and cover on the east and southern portions of the subunit offer outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Travel through the subunit offers one a true sense of isolation and closeness to a natural environment.

Recreation: The unit offers high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The scenic values for photography and general hiker or backpacker are outstanding in character. Though the perimeter of the area is readily accessible, the terrain and character of the area provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit is known to contain archeologic materials, though detailed inventories have not been completed.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 18,520-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty-one comments were received. Two comments disagreed with the proposed decision to eliminate Subunit A but did not give reasons. Sixteen comments support the proposed decision to identify a WSA in Subunit B. A number of commentors described boundary roads as intrusions and spoke of the microwave tower as an intrusion on naturalness. Several commentors also made statements which do not relate to inventory criteria but are retained for study phase consideration. One comment related to the way to Cleland Spring as a road which should disqualify the unit. A comment also referred to private land in the unit, however the unit boundaries exclude private lands from the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate Subunit A from further review. Designate an 18,520-acre wilderness study area in Subunit B. Exclude the microwave site at the end of the dead-end road.

Rationale: Subunit A is not in an essentially natural condition and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. Subunit B remains in a generally natural condition with outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation on significant portions of the unit. The microwave tower, though visible from portions of the unit, can be seen only from the southwest portion and does not dominate the scene even in that portion. The route into Cleland Spring is not a road, and is not sufficiently noticeable to have a substantial impact on the unit as a whole. The elements discussed in public comments which are not directly relative to the inventory phase but which relate to possible management of the area will be addressed during the wilderness study.

Unit Number: 1-118

Unit Name: Wakefield Cabin

Description

Size: 28,880 acres of public land. The unit contains 1,360 acres of private land in a single block near the center of the unit.

Location: Five miles west of Adel.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by State Highway 140 on the north, a road accompanying a 500-KV powerline on the east and County Road 3-14 and private land on the west. A dead-end road about a mile and a half long enters the unit from the north and goes to Joe Lake. A second road approximately five and one-half miles long enters from the south and goes to the fenceline west of Big Lake. The road turns west and although portions have been bladed toward the west boundary, the majority of the route is in very poor condition and it is questionable on meeting the road definition.

Physical Description: The unit is located on a high plateau south of Oregon Highway 140. The unit has approximately four miles of Deep Creek Canyon passing through the northwest corner. The remaining portion of the unit consists of large sage flat surrounding Big Lake, a large ephemeral lake approximately 2,400 acres in size, with low juniper covered hills to the south and southwest. The southwest corner also contains some very low basalt rims and Juniper Lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 25 miles of vehicle ways and fifteen reservoirs. The reservoirs are substantially noticeable in the unit. The 500-KV powerline along the eastern border of the unit is a dominant feature over the vast majority of the unit. The unit also contains approximately 13 miles of fenceline which are substantially noticeable and other fences which pass through juniper areas and are not readily visible. With all of the listed intrusions and their scattered distribution this unit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The vast majority of the unit is a large sage flat which offers practically no opportunity for solitude. The southwest portion of the unit with the small rims and juniper cover and the portions of the unit in Deep Creek Canyon do offer some opportunities for solitude. However, the areas offering solitude are restricted and the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for recreation in the Deep Creek area and on the southwest, but opportunities are limited to a very small area and they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers a high potential for archeological values though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received, all concurring with the proposed decision. One of them discusses the lack of wilderness characteristics within the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-120

Unit Name: Coleman Rim

Subunits: The unit contains 11,280 acres. It is divided by a road into two subunits. Both subunits are discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-120A

Description

Size: 6,160 acres.

Location: About five miles south of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6172 and W6 and County Road 3-15.

Physical Characteristics: The southwest portion of the subunit contains the Coleman Rim which consists of several fault block terraces rising in elevation from west to east. Elevation drops from south to north descending to the flats of Coleman Valley. Vegetation is sagebrush with scattered juniper. Topography is generally a downslope from south to north with minor variation in contour presenting an open slope over most of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The southern portion of the subunit is affected by two ways and two reservoirs in the central portion of the subunit. There is a number of reservoirs along the base of Coleman Rim which disturb the naturalness of that area. This subunit has a large number of developments for its size. It does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This subunit offers some degree of solitude along the rims and in juniper stands. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its narrow shape and small size.

Recreation: The subunit offers a moderate opportunity for hunting. The potential for hiking and backpacking is limited by the narrow shape and size of the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The subunit has a potential for archaeological values; these have not been documented, though.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. See the end of the description of the unit for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-120B

Size: 5,120 acres.

Location: About five miles south of Adel, Oregon

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6172 and W 6 and County Road 3-15.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is a generally unbroken slope descending from Coleman Rim to the south to the flat bottom of Coleman Valley. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush with some scattered juniper on the higher elevations in the southern part of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A way goes up Sucker Creek for about two miles and is very visible. Except for this way the subunit appears to be in an essentially natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit consists of a gentle, west facing slope with little vegetative cover. Anyone on the slope is exposed to the sights and sounds of others in the subunit. It does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers limited opportunities for hunting and could be used for hiking and backpacking. The opportunities would not be outstanding because of the featureless topography and the shape and size of the area would confine the activity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received. It concurred with the proposed decisions for both subunits.

Final Decisions: Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Rationale: Neither subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 1-124

Unit Name: Fish Canyon South

Description

Size: 8,160 acres.

Location: Ten miles northeast of Adel, Oregon.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6152 and 6132.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the unit is typical of the northern basin and range province. There is a fault block through the middle of the unit with a steep escarpment on the eastern side. Below the escarpment, there is a narrow basin. The western side dips gently to the southwest. The southern tip of the unit is big sage. Juniper stands are found on the eastern portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four miles of ways and five small lakebed pits which do not have significant impacts on the unit. The lakebed pits are substantially noticeable in one section on the south of the unit. The remaining portion of the unit appears in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not have an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening and the narrow shape of the unit. One would find it very difficult to be isolated from the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. However, the size and shape of the unit limit the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit's remote location and the sparse surrounding population be considered as factors which enhance the opportunities available for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The majority of the unit is extremely exposed and offers no real opportunity for solitude. There is no significant feature or point of interest in the unit, and it therefore does not provide any outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 1-125

Unit Name: Horsehead Lake

Description

Size: 12,000 acres.

Location: Eight and one half miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM roads and Oregon State Highway 140.

Physical Characterisitics: The topography of the unit is typical of the northern portion of the basin and range province with faulted lava flows leaving steep escarpments with flat plateaus between. The unit contains four north to south trending scarps. Fairy Flat is a large plateau area contained within the unit. The southeast portion of the unit is a sage flat located above Greaser Basin. The unit contains five dry lakebeds of significant size. Vegetation on the unit is primarily big sagebrush with stands of juniper along the rim.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria, being significantly affected by the works of man. There are six ways and numerous trails; cumulatively these have a substantial impact on the unit. There are eight reservoirs in the unit which are substantially noticeable and have a considerable impact on Fairy Flat. A 600-acre drilled seeding exists in the southwest portion of the unit and a 340-acre drilled seeding exists in the northwest portion of the unit. These seedings represent significant intrusion on naturalness.

Solitude: Portions of the unit may offer some minor degree of solitude. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. These opportunities are not outstanding within the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it is significantly impacted by the works of man. This unit does not offer outstanding solitude or unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-126/CA-020-1010

Unit Name: Coleman Valley/Macy Flat

Description

Size: This interstate unit contains approximately 36,700 acres of contiguous public lands; 23,640 acres in Oregon and 13,060 acres in Nevada. The public lands in Nevada are administered by the BLM district office in Susanville, California.

Location: The unit is located eight miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The north boundary is Oregon Highway 140. The west boundary in Oregon is BLM Road 6182 and County Road 3-15 which is designated as Nevada Highway 34 in the Susanville District. The east boundary is BLM 6102C in Oregon and becomes the Macy Flat Road in the Susanville District. The south boundary is defined by Nevada Highway 34 and the Macy Flat Road.

Physical Characteristics: The western side of the unit contains the flats of Coleman Valley. The unit rises sharply at a north to south trending fault scarp at the east side of Coleman Valley and the remaining portion consists of flat to low rolling topography on a gently descending dip slope to the east. Vegetation on the unit is primarily sagebrush with juniper with aspen stands in the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 26 miles of bladed ways and roads on the Oregon side of the unit which significantly affect the northern part of the unit. The Nevada side contains approximately seven miles of minor ways and several small reservoirs which do not substantially affect the southern part of the unit. Joint evaluation of the unit by Susanville and Lakeview personnel determined that the northern part of the unit does not appear generally natural but that the Nevada side remains primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: There are minor areas near the rim on the western side of the unit which would provide some opportunity for solitude. The gently rolling to flat areas in the rest of the unit with little vegetation cover are not conducive to solitude, presenting poor opportunities to avoid the presence of others in the unit. The unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The portions of the unit near the rim and "Rocky Canyon", a small side canyon which breaks the rim just south of the Nevada border, would provide some limited opportunity for hiking. The unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain some archaeologic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: A proposed decision for the California portion was announced in 1979 and public comments were accepted for 90 days. However, the California State Director deferred the final decision until the public had an opportunity to comment on proposed decisions on all lands in the unit. The proposed decision on the California portion was reannounced in the Spring of 1980 to coincide with the public comment period for the proposed decision in Oregon. Comments received by BLM offices in California concurred with the proposed decision that the California portion did not meet the wilderness criteria. One comment said the unit had wilderness characteristics, especially when the Oregon lands were considered. Another addressed the presence of private lands in the California portion. Two comments were received in Oregon; both concurred with the proposed decision to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Joint evaluation by Lakeview and Susanville District personnel determined that the portion of the unit north of the Oregon-Nevada State Line does not remain in an apparently natural condition and the unit as a whole does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-127

Unit Name: Wool Lake

Description

Size: 5,360 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Adel.

Boundaries: The northern boundary of the unit is the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6152 and 6152 B. The roads are bladed roads currently in fair to poor condition.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of broken rims and low angle slopes on the west and breaks onto a high flat plain to the east. The unit contains four ephemeral lakes, the largest of which is Wool Lake. The lakes are all shallow depressions. Cover on the unit is essentially sagebrush with junipers scattered along the rims.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: There are four ways into the unit and five substantial reservoir developments. Because of the small size of the unit these man-made features strongly impact the area. It does not appear relatively free of the works of man nor primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit is very small and its vegetation and topography provide little screening. A visitor would have difficulty avoiding the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit would offer considerable opportunity for antelope hunting; however this would not be considered a primitive and unconfined recreational activity as normally practiced in the region. The unit is in a scenic area but the limitations of size and topography would restrict the opportunities for hiking or back packing. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area is reported to contain archeological values, but documentation has not been completed for the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments wre received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature and man's works are apparent in the unit. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-128

Unit Name: Long Lake

Description

Size: Approximately 9,000 acres.

Location: Approximately 10 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Road 6162, spurs and private lands. Private lands located in the southern portion of the unit isolate a narrow strip of BLM land between private land and the road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is a sage flat with low hills providing minor topographic relief. There are ten ephemeral lakes on this unit which occupy shallow depressions. Long Lake is the most significant and is dry over the majority of the bed.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains four miles of ways, five miles of fenceline and eight reservoirs. These man-made features are a significant intrusion on naturalness. This unit has obviously been affected by the works of man.

Solitude: The unit offers only a limited opportunity for solitude. The narrow shape and small size of the unit in conjunction with its topography and vegetation make it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hunting, hiking and horseback riding. These values are not considered outstanding within the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archaeological values, but none have yet been documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit does not meet the wilderness study criteria. It does not appear in a natural condition, and it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-129

Unit Name: Jack Lake

Description

Size: 10,000 acres of public land. The unit has two inholdings of private land which total 480 acres.

Location: About 15 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is situated in flat sagebrush country below the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. There is minor topographic relief along faults. Seven ephemeral lakes are located in the unit; Jack Lake is the largest of these lakes. It is approximately three and one half miles long and one quarter mile wide.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 12 miles of ways and seven lake beds with numerous pits and dikes. These intrusions are substantially noticeable because of the small size and insufficient topographic relief of the unit.

Solitude: The topography and vegetative screening in conjunction with the relatively small size and narrow shape of the unit do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It would be difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Recreation: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area has low potential for hiking

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due to lack of topographic relief and exposure to works of man. There is very good hunting potential in the area, but it is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are potential archaeological values in the areas surrounding the lakes. None have yet been recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable within the unit. The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-130

Unit Name: Little Reservoir

Description

Size: 24,280 acres of public land. The unit contains three inholdings of state and private land totaling 1,680 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary of the unit is Oregon State Highway 140. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6122, 7136 and 6106.

Physical Characterisitcs: The majority of the unit is a broad sagebrush flat with a slight rise to Little Juniper Mountain in the north. There is a north to south fault scarp and a basin along Jack Creek on the east side of the unit which forms a broad bottomed valley approximately five miles in length and one-half mile wide. The unit contains two large lakebeds used as reservoirs. The unit drops off sharply into Greaser Basin. Cover on the unit is sagebrush with scattered junipers along Jack Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 18 miles of ways. With the spread of these ways across the unit they constitute a significant impact of man's works. There are seven reservoirs in the unit which cumulativily represent substantial evidence of the works of man, due to their size and distribution in the unit. This unit does not appear substantially free of the works of man.

Solitude: As a result of flat topography and low vegetative cover, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does offer some opportunity for hunting, however, activities such as backpacking or hiking would be severely confined. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to contain some archeological values though none are currently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: With the concentration of ways and reservoirs representing the evidence of man in this unit, it does not meet the wilderness criteria for naturalness. In addition the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-131

Unit Name: Clover Swale

Description

Size: 7,640 acres.

Location: Adjacent to the south boundary of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: The north boundary of the unit is the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. The south boundary is BLM Road 6106 C. The west boundary is private land. The east boundary is BLM Road W 73 which is a main road on the west side of Guano Valley.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains low rims and draws on the west side with flat uplands on the east side. The unit is generally sage cover with scattered juniper stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately two miles of fenceline, three miles of ways and three reservoirs. Two of the reservoirs in the unit are located in Clover Swale and are moderate in size but affect only a small area of the unit due to topographic screening and regrowth of vegetation on the reservoirs. The intrusions of man in the unit are minimal and the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit is a relatively narrow strip of land running east to west below the refuge fenceline. With the flat terrain and broad draws with little vegetative cover or topographic relief in the unit, it would be difficult for a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit would offer opportunity for hunting and very limited opportunities for other types of primitive or unconfined recreation. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation due to limitations of size and configuration.

Supplemental Values: The unit would be expected to present some archeological values, though none are presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself, does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-132, 1-133, 1-134, 1-138, 1-140, 1-144, and 1-145 all be designated WSAs along with Unit 1-131 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting thje Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This unit has minor impacts on naturalness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are constrained by size, topography and configuration of the unit; the opportunities are not outstanding. The unit cannot be combined with other roadless areas because

Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined in the inventory, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-132

Unit Name: Guano Creek

Description

Size: 10,560 acres.

Location: One mile south of Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6106 and 6106 C.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains rolling hills and draws with minor rims bounding some of the draws. The drainage of Guano Creek forms a small canyon for approximately one and one-half miles and drops into a broad erosion basin with steep cliffs. The majority of the unit is elevated tablelands above and west of Guano Valley. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush with isolated stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: This unit contains approximately six miles of ways four small reservoirs and minor fenceline intrusions. These intrusions are not substantially noticeable due to topographic screening and the low visibility of the intrusions. The unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The small canyon along Guano Creek offers limited isolation for a small number of people. The majority of the unit with broad flat areas and little screening does not offer an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. Considering the small size of the unit relative to the exposure and the limited opportunity present in the small canyon, this unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The opportunity for hiking, wildlife observation, photography and general primitive opportunities were recognized in the initial decision as present, though not considered outstanding. The review of the unit as a result of public comment has led to a re-assessment of the evaluation. Though the unit is rather small in size, the riparian vegetation along Guano Creek and the presence of water in the stream a significant portion of the year represents in this region a potential for outstanding primitive recreation. The added factors of the undeveloped lakebeds in the northeast part of the unit offer substantial opportunities for observation of wildlife values and natural systems.

Supplemental Values: The unit has potential for archeological values, although not documented at present.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and fourteen oppose it. Eight of those favor a WSA without providing information about the unit's values. Five comments argue that the Guano Creek Canyon does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation, such as hiking and sightseeing. One of the comments mentions the unit's supplemental values and two mention plentiful water as additional factors favoring identification of the unit as a WSA.

One comment suggests that Unit 1-132 be identifed as a WSA along the Units 1-131, 1-133, 1-134, 1-138, 1-140, 1-144, and 1-145 so that collectively they would offer outstanding opportunities which they lack individually.

Final Decision: Designate a 10,560-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: As addressed in the recreation portion of the narrative, we have re-evaluated the potential for recreation as a result of public comment and agree that opportunities for recreation stand above others of their kind. We continue to believe, however, that the small size and openness of much of the unit limits opportunities for solitude.

Unit Number: 1-133

Unit Name: Guano Lake West

Description

Size: 13,480 acres.

Location: 16 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7136, 6126, and 6106.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit is triangular in shape, approximately five miles wide on the north narrowing to a point some nine miles to the south. The unit contains a dry lake basin on the northeast approximately three miles wide. The west side of the unit is a basalt upthrust known as Shirks Rim. The upthrust is approximately six miles long, one-half mile wide and approximately 500 feet high. The south end of the unit is broken rims and narrow basins. The east side of the unit is a rim which runs the length of the unit and drops off abruptly approximately 200 feet to the Guano Lake Basin.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately seven miles of ways around the ephemeral lake on the north. There are two reservoirs in the lake basin, but they are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The triangular shape of the unit in conjunction with the topography over the majority of the unit leaves a person exposed to the presence of others within the unit. On the west side, the downslope of Shirks Rim is exposed to the west boundary area and would not allow an opportunity for solitude. The lake basin in the north, though isolated from the surrounding area, would not allow a person to avoid the sights and sounds of any others in this portion of the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit would offer some wildlife observation and hunting potential but it is not of an outstanding nature. The confined shape of the unit would constrain any hiking or backpacking opportunity. The unit offers no outstanding recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized, though archeological values may occur.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Commments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself, does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-134, 1-138, 1-140, 1-144, and 1-145 all be designated WSAs along with Unit 1-133 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is essentially natural but due to the confines of shape and size in relation to topography, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit cannot be combined with other roadless areas in the inventory because Congress mandated the Bureau to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-134

Unit Name: Lone Grave Butte

Subunits: The unit contains 25,440 acres of public land. Road 6106 B was identified during the intensive inventory and it divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 3,360 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-134B

Description

Size: 22,080 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6106 B, 6106 C and 6176. The north and much of the west boundaries of the unit are private lands and the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: Observed from the boundary areas, the unit seems very flat. However, there are broken rims with large flats of different elevations and small hills in the unit. The most prominent feature of the unit is Lone Grave Butte, which rises to an elevation of 6,510 feet. The unit is long and narrow and rises gradually in elevation from south to north. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush community. The southern portion of the unit has very sandy soils. Toward the north end the surface becomes basalt tableland with many rocks and boulders.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four ways in the unit which total approximately 13 miles in length. These ways are substantially unnoticeable as they are not visible from any significant distance. The unit appears generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The most noticeable man-made feature is a fenceline which runs up the south slope of Lone Grave Butte for approximately two miles.

Solitude: With the somewhat broken terrain within the unit there is some opportunity for a visitor to find solitude. The broad expanses between elevation changes on the unit and the relatively narrow shape of the unit does leave one exposed to other persons in the unit. Though some opportunity for avoiding the sights and sounds of others does exist, it is not judged as outstanding within the region.

Recreation: The unit is actively used during the big game hunting seasons and is heavily trapped. These activities are motor vehicle related recreation as practiced in this region. The opportunity for some hiking and wildlife observation does exist in the unit, but is not considered as an outstanding opportunity within the unit. Lone Grave Butte would appear as the most likely point of interest from the recreationist standpoint in the unit and this portion of the unit is very close to the east boundary road which receives very heavy traffic. The unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation activities.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of the opposing comments argues that the unit does have wilderness characteristics on its own, and that there is no doubt about it if it is considered along with the adjacent roadless area within Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. The other comment suggest that Subunit 1-134B be identified as a WSA along with Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-133, 1-138, 1-140, 1-144, and 1-145 so that collectively they would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitve recreation which they lack individually.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: After reconsidering the initial assessment in light of the public comments, we continue to believe that the unit is generally natural, but lacks outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. During the inventory process meetings were held with the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge manager and his staff to discuss units adjacent to the refuge. Lands on the refuge adjacent to this unit were not considered appropriate for wilderness designation by the Fish and Wildlife service during its wilderness review. The unit cannot be combined with other BLM roadless areas in the inventory because Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas are combined, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-135

Unit Name: Guano Lake

Description

Size: 11,680 acres of public land; 320 acres of private inholdings.

Location: About 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads, 6126, 6106B, 6176, 6106A and private land. There are four dead-end roads totaling about seven miles in length in the northwest section of the unit, which have been bladed and are presently in good condition.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a dry lakebed. The northeastern portion of the unit has some low hills. Guano Lake in the western portion of the unit is an ephemeral lake approximately four miles long and one-half mile wide. The vegetative cover is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The intrusion roads have a major impact in the northeast. In the western portion of the unit, there are five and a half miles of ways and a well. The way appears to be unobtrusive due to method of construction, design, and regrowth of vegetation. The well has very minimal impacts due to its small size. Approximately 50 percent of the unit has been affected by the works of man. The remaining portion of the unit appears in a general natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The generally flat terrain, low vegetative cover and small size leaves one exposed to others in the unit. The unit does not contain secluded spots where one can experience isolation.

Recreation: The large, flat expanses of the unit do not provide any suitable opportunities to engage in primitive forms of recreation.

Supplemental Values: There are some potential archaeological values, though none have yet been documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concuring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as approximately 50 percent of the unit has been affected by substantially noticeable works of man. The small size of the unit and the flat, sage-covered terrain do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-136

Unit Name: Beatys Butte

Description

Size: 5,580 acres of public land; 160 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6196, 6166 A, 6176 and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is hilly, rugged terrain. The western edge of the unit has low rolling hills which become sage flats towards the boundary. Sagebrush is the primary vegetative cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit is in a generally natural condition and appears affected primarily by the forces of nature. Hood Spring is located near the eastern boundary of the unit. It is substantially unnoticeable and does not have a significant impact on the unit. There is a minor way in the northwest corner of the unit.

Solitude: The unit offers moderate opportunities for solitude. Due to the relatively small size, private inholding and lack of vegetative screening, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit offers potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. These opportunities are limited by the small size and private inholdings.

Supplemental Values: The unit has a potential for archaeological values, though none are presently recorded.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. The latter two argue that the unit qualifies as a WSA because the height of the butte represents an outstanding recreation experience.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit appears to meet the criteria for naturalness. The unit does not meet the criteria for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The summit and much of the land on the north side of Beaty Butte are in private ownership. The public lands in the unit are extremely exposed and do not allow for solitude or any significant degree of primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-137

Unit Name: Mahogany Mountain

Description

Size: 8,000 acres of public land. There is a 40-acre inholding of private land at Rock Springs Camp.

Location: 24 miles east of Plush.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6166, 6176, 6196 and 7106. The roads are maintained two-track roads on north, east and south; the west road is a well bladed and drained high-use road to Beaty Butte.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains low rolling hills on the west which steadily rise to the east toward Shirks Lookout and Mahogany Mountain. The low elevation in the unit is approximately 5,000 feet with the high point being Mahogany Mountain at 7,140 feet. The unit contains steep-sided hills and draws with broad exposures and low vegetative cover. The unit is essentially sagebrush covered with minor stands of mountain mahogany on Mahogany Mountain. There is one scenic canyon approximately three-quarters of a mile in length north of Rock Spring Camp.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The unit contains three and one-half miles of ways and four miles of fenceline. The unit also contains two small reservoirs. These man-made features are noticeable through approximately 30 percent of the area on the unit. Development at Rock Spring Camp, though on private land, has a significant impact on portions of the unit. This unit appears generally natural on the north and east; however, much of the western and southern portions of the unit does not remain in a natural condition.

Solitude: The steep hills in the unit in conjunction with the low vegetation tend to give an effect of leaving one highly exposed to others in large portions of the unit. It is very difficult in spite of the topography on the unit to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers potential for hiking, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. With the confining element of small size and exposure to others within the unit, it would be difficult to find a truly primitive and unconfined experience on the unit. Recreation opportunities on the unit are not considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized on the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: A considerable portion of the unit shows effects of the works of man and is not apparently in a natural condition. The unit also lacks any outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The area also does not provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-138

Unit Name: Buckaroo Pass

Description

Size: 12,640 acres.

Location: Four miles south of Beatys Butte.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 7106, 6156 and 7116.

Physical Characteristics: The central portion of the unit is broken topography with minor peaks and rims falling away to the east and west to sagebrush valleys. The elevation in the center of the unit is slightly above 6,000 feet and the valleys on either side are near 5,000 feet. The contours of the slopes in the unit are moderate with some minor rims. Vegetation on the unit is sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has one spring development and one reservoir which is noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. The unit remains essentially free of the works of man and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The moderate slopes on the unit in conjunction with the low vegetative cover would leave one very exposed to others on the same side of the unit over a great distance. The unit does not leave a person with the feeling that he could readily avoid others in the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers a limited opportunity for day use hiking and some scenic vistas of the surrounding country. Because of its small size the unit does not provide for an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation experience.

Supplemental Values: None are presently recognized, although some archeologic values may be present and undocumented currently.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself, does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-133, 1-134, 1-140, 1-144, and 1-145 all be designated WSAs along with Unit 1-138 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Although the unit remains in a generally natural condition, the small size of the unit, in conjunction with the topography and exposure, does not offer opportunities for outstanding solitude or outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is bounded by roads. Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If this unit were combined with other roadless areas in the inventory, the area inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-139

Unit Name: Spaulding Reservoir

Subunits: The unit contains 70,360 acres of public land. Road 6176 B on the east side of the unit was identified during the intensive inventory and it divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 4,640 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 1-139B

Description

Size: 65,720 acres of public land. The unit contains 440 acres of private land in three tracts. The largest single tract is the Spaulding Ranch property on the northwest of the unit.

Location: Approximately 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: State Highway 140 on the southwest, and BLM Roads 6176, 7116, 6156 A, 6176 B, 6176 C, 6116 A, and 6136. The Bureau roads vary from two-track roads across flat areas, to highly developed Road 6176, the main Beaty Butte Road. A dead-end road, approximately five miles long, runs into Spaulding reservoir in the northwest area of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit offers a considerable variety of terrain. The southern portion is a broad sage flat located east of and above the Guano Rim, a 450 foot fault scarp which runs north through the subunit for approximately 12 miles. The central portion consists of rolling topography divided by the northward trending Sage Hen Canyon. This canyon starts as a small stream drainage on the south central portion of the subunit and travels north increasing in depth to Spaulding Reservoir, a distance of approximately five miles. The northern and northeast portions contain broken rims, plateaus and prominant erosion features. The subunit contains approximately twenty ephemeral lakebeds, six of which contain lakebed pits. The far western side is located below the Guano Rim and contains sage flats and rolling sandy terrain toward the north. Vegetation is sagebrush with stands of willow and aspen below the rims on the east and north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirement.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine lakebed waterholes and three reservoirs; most of the reservoirs are fairly small and not noticeable from any distance. The most significant impact is Spaulding Reservoir and the intrusion road leading to it. This reservoir sits in a basin in the center of the unit, but is not dramatically visible as a man-made reservoir until one is quite near the impoundment. Due to the terrain in the area, one would also have to be quite close to the intrusion road before noticing any significant impact. There is one developed spring on the north end of the unit with a way leading to it and a second developed spring in Section 32, T 39 S., R. 29 E. There are two vehicle ways on the southwest of the unit. One is the old Wagonside Road which is barely discernable. The second is a way from private land in Section 7, T. 40 S., R. 29 E., which travels northwest to the flats below Guano Rim in Section 27, T. 39, S., R. 28 E. The second way is more traveled and goes to several waterholes. It is substantially unnoticeable. Although there are a number of man-made features in the unit, their appearance, the large size of the unit, the topography involved and the dispersion of these features through the unit with large distances between, leaves the unit with a generally natural appearance with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Because of its large size and the wide variety of topography where isolation would be easily achieved, this unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. A person within the unit could readily isolate himself from others, and a large number of persons could occupy the various regions of the unit without making contact. The southwest flats would offer the least opportunity for solitude, but the size of that area could offer some degree of solitude.

Recreation: The diversity of the unit is a key element in providing recreation potential in this unit. The area offers opportunity for hunting over the majority of the unit with the broken country on the east and north offering the best opportunity for non-vehicle hunters. The canyons and broken country in the central and eastern portions of the unit offer outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking. The limit on recreation during the later part of the year would be potential lack of water in the unit. The unit offers high potential for wildlife observation. Scenic values from many portions of the unit are high.

Supplemental Values: The unit is known to possess historic and archaeological values, though a formal inventory has not been completed.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 65,720-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty comments were recieved. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision to eliminate Subunit 1-139A from further wilderness review and make no reference to Subunit B. Four comments are clearly opposed to the proposed decision concerning 1-139B and a fifth appears to be, but the point is not clearly stated. These comments argue that the proposed WSA is not natural, because the reservoirs are substantially noticeable or because of roads. One provides specific information about roads, and argues that the unit's topography is too flat and vegetation too low to provide outstanding solitude. One comment opposes WSA status in favor of vehicle access, resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Designate a 65,720 acre Wilderness Study Area.

Rationale: After reviewing public comments and re-evaluating the unit in the field, we continue to believe that the unit is in a generally natural appearance and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The routes referred to in public comments were field checked and it was determined that they do not meet the road definition. The unit contains numerous hunter trails which are not substantially noticeable. Several comments addressed the presence of Spaulding Reservoir and the access road to the reservoir. The reservoir and the access road are excluded from the study area. The reservoir and road will be maintained and access continued during the study phase. The issue of whether vehicular access to the reservoir would be continued if the area were designated wilderness will be considered during the wilderness study. The impact of the road and the reservoir on the wilderness characteristics of the unit are minimal. The private land at Spaulding Ranch is not included in the study area.

Unit Number: 1-140

Unit Name: Sagehen Spring

Subunits: The unit contains 13,440 acres of public land. It is divided by BLM Road 6136 into two subunits. Subunit 1-140A contains 4,040 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-140B

Description

Size: 9,400 acres.

Location: 25 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6136, 6116 and State Highway 140.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains sage flats and low rolling terrain with minor stream drainages. On the east side a small canyon exits to the east at Sagehen Spring on private land. There is one extended slope paralleling Road 6116 along the east side of the subunit which drops off to Sage Hen Flats to the east. There are two developed springs in the northwest corner of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one short way and spring development in the northwest corner of the subunit which is not substantially noticeable. The subunit as a whole retains a generally natural condition with the imprints of mans works substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit has only gently rolling contours in some limited areas to screen one from the sights and sounds of others in the subunit. With its topography the subunit is not large enough to provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Hunting and trapping are potential recreation uses of this area and limited hiking and horseback riding for pleasure could be undertaken. The opportunities for these recreation activities are not outstanding on this unit due to the limitations of size.

Supplemental Values: The occurrence of springs in the unit is a supplemental value in this region.

Proposed Decisions: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself, does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-133, 1-134, 1-138, 1-144, and 1-145 all be designated WSAs along the Unit 1-140 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: This subunit is generally natural. However, because of its size and the limited diversity in topography, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is bounded by roads. Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined in the inventory, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-142

Unit Name: Wilson Spring

Description

Size: 16,040 acres of public land. There are 240 acres of private inholdings.

Location: About one and one-half miles east of Beatty Butte.

Boundaries: BLM roads 7106, 6156 and 6166. These roads have been bladed and maintained for the most part and are in fair to good condition. However, portions of roads 6166 and 7106 (Wilson Spring to Mudhole Spring) are currently in poor to fair condition with several washouts and gullies in the road.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains steep hilly terrain with several stream drainages. The eastern side of the unit gradually descends into Ryegrass Valley. The western edge of the unit contains high-angle, exposed slopes. There are draws around the south, north and western edges of the unit. The vegatative cover is sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has eight developed springs and two reservoirs. These developments are not very noticeable due to the topographic screening around each individual spring and reservoir. The unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit has some secluded spots where one can be isolated from others. However, the steep hills in the western and central portion of the unit have highly exposed slopes and low vegetative cover. One would find it difficult to avoid others in the unit. The eastern side of the unit is low rolling flatlands with low vegetation which does not provide adequate screening from others. The unit does not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude, due to the small size and lack of screening from others.

Recreation: The unit has some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. The unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the small size which limits the user potential.

Supplemental Value: The unit has a potential for archaeological values, though none are yet documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be free from the imprints of man and in a generally natural condition. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude and unconfined recreation due to the small size and exposure to other users within the unit.

Unit Number: 1-143

Unit Name: Ryegrass Valley

Description

Size: 31,880 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 6156, and 6176 D.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a broad sage basin known as Ryegrass Valley. The major geographic feature is a large dry lake bed known as Shallow Lake. There are low hills and ridges to the northwest of Shallow Lake which provide the major topographic relief in the unit. Contours are minimal on the unit to the degree that from the west one can readily see across the entire unit. Vegetation is a sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five small reservoirs, one lakebed pit and approximately five miles of relatively unnoticeable ways. The unit appears in a generally natural condition as none of the man-made features are visible from any significant distance.

Solitude: Although the unit is of considerable size, the area is very flat and one can see across most, if not all, of the unit from any particualar point. There is a slight amount of variation in topography in the northern part of the unit which might offer some solitude, but this portion of the unit is also a narrow segment extending from the main body of the unit. The unit could not support many visitors at one time and offer an opportunity for them to avoid the presence of others in the unit. It does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The wide and exposed sage flats in the unit do not offer an area conducive to an outstanding recreation experience such as backpacking or hiking. The monotony of the landscape in traversing the unit on foot in conjunction with lack of water would not represent an outstanding opportunity. The area does offer opportunities for hunters although in this region this would be a vehicle related activity. The unit offers no feature which would represent an outstanding recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The opposing comment suggests that the absence of water was inappropriately used as a factor limiting the opportunities for primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit is in an apparently natural condition but the broad expanses of sage flat in the majority of the unit do not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit also lacks any feature or characteristic which would represent an outstanding recreation opportunity. The lack of potable water as referred in public comment was not intended in the commentary as a prime reason for the unit lacking recreation potential. It is recognized that dry camping and carrying water are possibilities in the unit.

Unit Number: 1-144

Unit Name: Bald Mountain

Description

Size: 14,040 acres.

Location: Approximately 35 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 6176, 6176 D and 6126 B.

Physical Characteristics: The south half of the unit is a low angle slope rising to the north with minor drainage depressions. The highest point in the unit is Bald Mountain, a domed prominence on the southeast portion of the unit. There is a ridgeline running east to west which tends to divide the unit into south and north halves. The northern portion falls away abruptly with minor rims, draws and broken contours. This north half contains an elevation drop of approximately 1,000 feet over a two mile distance. Vegetative cover on the unit is sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The northern half of the unit contains three reservoirs with ways leading to them from the north boundary road. There are two reservoirs located near the boundary areas in the south half of the unit. The way going to Shelby Reservoir continues up the hill to a seep on the hillside. These ways and reservoirs are somewhat noticeable from higher elevations within the unit but the area still retains a primarily natural appearance.

Solitude: The southern half of the unit with gentle slopes and lack of cover does not offer an opportunity for solitude from others in the south half of the unit. The north half of the unit, with more broken terrain, does offer some marginal opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The restricted size of these secluded portions is less than adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for wildlife observation, hunting and to a limited degree for hiking on the northern portion. Because of the limited size of the area of potential interest and the lack of any significant recreation values of particular note, the area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitve and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized, although the unit may contain undocumented archeological values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-133, 1-134, 1-138, 1-140, and 1-145 all be designated WSAs along with Unit 1-144 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting he Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit has some man-made features which are noticeable but retains a generally natural appearance. The unit offers only a limited opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. These opportunities are not outstanding. The unit is bounded by roads. Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas were combined in the inventory, the areas inventoried would not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-145

Unit Name: Sagehen Flat

Subunits: The unit is divided by Road 6176 B identified during the intensive inventory into subunits 145A and 145B. The subunits are similar in character, so the entire unit is described below.

Description

Size: The unit contains 15,715 acres, with 7,620 acres in Subunit 1-145A and 8,095 acres in Subunit 145B.

Location: Approximately 30 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: Boundaries of the subunit are BLM roads 6176, 6176 B, 6176 C and 6116.

Physical Characteristics: The entire unit is a low sagebrush flat. The unit contains two shallow ephermal lakebeds. There are two large lakebed pits in the unit at Dixson Reservoir and adjacent to Road 6176 in Section 25 on the northeast.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Both subunits meet the size requirements.

Naturalness: Dixson Reservoir is located on the road between the subunits. Because of the extremely flat nature of the unit, the large mound at the north end of the reservoir is visible for a considerable distance within both subunits. A large reservoir in Section 25 in the northeast corner of 145A is also very noticeable over a large area. Most of the unit, particularly the northern part, remains in a natural condition. Therefore, the unit is judged primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The extremely flat terrain in the unit and the very low sage cover make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in this unit. The size of the unit is also insufficient, considering the flat terrain, to provide opportunities to escape the presence of others. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This extremely flat and exposed area does not offer any outstanding potential for hiking, hunting or other primitive forms of recreation.

Supplemental Values: None identified.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that the unit be a WSA, even though agreeing that the unit, by itself does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment suggests that Units 1-131, 1-132, 1-133, 1-134, 1-138, 1-140, and 1-144 all be designated WSAs along with Unit 1-145 so that collectively they would all have outstanding opportunities and would provide a corridor connecting the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge with the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Rationale: The unit is extremely flat and offers no cover for a person to obtain solitude. The unit also lacks any significant recreation potential. The southern half of the unit borders on being affected primarily by the works of man. Both subunits are bounded by roads. Congress directed BLM to inventory roadless areas. If roadless areas are combined in the inventory, the areas inventoried will not be roadless.

Unit Number: 1-146

Unit Name: Hawksie Walksie

Subunits: The unit contains 81,440 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found that a road divides it into two major subunits, which are described below. An additional 760-acre subunit in T. 41 S., R. 29 E., Sections 2, 3, 4 and 10 does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-146A

Description

Size: 72,160 acres of public land in the Lakeview and Burns BLM districts. The unit contains two state inholdings of 640 acres each.

Location: Along the Oregon, Nevada border approximately 36 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is the Nevada state line, which in this area is also the boundary of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range. The adjacent lands in the refuge have been proposed for wilderness designation by the Fish and Wildlife Service. There is a two and a half mile dead-end road into a dismantled horsetrap in the northwest portion of the subunit. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6176A, 6176, 6126.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit is a large basin ringed by hills on the west, north and east and open to the south. There is a large ephemeral lakebed in the basin known as Hawksie Walksie. The northeastern portion of the unit includes Hawk Mountain (elevation 7,000 ft.) and Lone Juniper Mountain just south in Hawk Mountain. The eastern part of the unit is rolling hills with some minor rims. Vegetation on the unit is a big sagebrush community with sparsely scattered junipers on the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five lakebed pits which are noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. There are 16 miles of vehicle ways in the unit which remain substantially unnoticeable due to terrain and condition of the trails. One segment of way north of Hawksie Walksie has been bladed at some time in the past and has caused a bad erosion scar for approximately one-half mile. This segment does not appear to have been maintained to assure relatively regular and continuous use and is not classed as a road. There is a reservoir and tank water development in Section 19 in the north end of the subunit but this development remains substantially unnoticeable. There is a 3,800-acre seeding in Hawk Valley on the northern boundary of this subunit. The seeding is a substantially noticeable impact of human activity. Because of the scattered locations of developments and large size of the subunit, it appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The rim of high hills which surrounds this basin provides a tangible feeling of isolation and solitude within the subunit. The rolling hills and peaks of Hawk Mountain and Lone Juniper Mountain provide ample opportunity to experience solitude. The subunit provides outstanding potential for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: Though the flats of Hawksie Walksie present little challenge or potential of themselves, the surrounding hills and peaks offer ample opportunity for hiking and back packing. The unit provides some variety in color and landscape features which adds to the scenic qualities in the area. The unit does offer high potential for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The subunit does contain archeological values although formal inventories have not been conducted. The presence of Sheldon Antelope Range and the proposed wilderness adjacent to this subunit supplement the values of this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 68,360-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 3,800 acres in Hawk Valley which are not in a natural condition. See the end of the description of this unit for a summary of public comments and the final decisions for both subunits.

Subunit Number: 1-146B

Description

Size: 8,520 acres.

Location: 36 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The south boundary is the Nevada State Line which is also the Sheldon Antelope Range boundary. The remaining boundaries are BLM Roads 6176, 6176A and 6126A.

Physical Characteristics: Primarily low rolling hills with big sagebrush cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one vehicle way which is barely discernable on the ground. The unit remains in a natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers some degree of solitude but the potential is not considered outstanding. When evaluated as a portion of the adjacent lands in Nevada, the opportunities would be outstanding.

Recreation: This subunit offers some potential for hiking, hunting and wildlife observation. In the Oregon subunit alone, the opportunities are not outstanding; but when the Oregon area is considered along with the adjacent acreage in Nevada which is a proposed wilderness area, there would be outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The subunit is contiguous to the Sage Hen Hills portion of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range proposed wilderness. The potential value of this subunit as an addition to the Sheldon proposal is the most significant element of the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 8,520-acre wilderness study area in Subunit B.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty three comments were received. Seventeen support the proposed decisions to identify Subunits A and B as WSAs. One of these argues that the portion of Subunit 1-146A which is unnatural because of a crested wheat grass seeding should also be part of the WSA.

Three comments specifically oppose the proposed decision for Subunit A. One provides road information and discusses roads, reservoirs, the openness of the area, the lack of outstanding recreational opportunities, and outside influences as reasons to eliminate the subunit from further wilderness review. One comment argues in favor of vehicle access, resource management and multiple use as preferable to wilderness study areas.

Two comments specifically oppose the proposed decision for Subunit B. One discusses roads, the openness of the area, its lack of outstanding recreational opportunities and outside influences as reasons to eliminate the area from further wilderness review. One comment is apparently opposed to the proposed decisions to identify WSAs, but the point is not clearly stated.

Final Decision: Designate a 68,360-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Eliminate 3,800 acres in Subunit A from further review because they are not in an essentially natural condition. Designate an 8,520-acre wilderness study area in Subunit B. Eliminate Subunit C from further review because it does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: The road to the horse trap area in Subunit a cited in a public comment is a dead-end intrusion road that is not significant in the unit as a whole. The other routes addressed in public comments on Subunit A are not maintained to assure relatively regular and continuous use and are classified as ways. The subunit remains in a generally natural appearance in spite of the presence of minor intrusions at reservoirs and trails. The subunit, especially on the east side of Hawk Mountain and south from Lone Juniper Mountain to the Nevada state line, offers outstanding recreation opportunities for hiking and sightseeing. The solitude opportunities are also outstanding on the eastern half to two-thirds of the subunit. The flats of the dry lake bed in the central part of the subunit offer less than outstanding opportunities for solitude, but for the unit as a whole, the opportunities are outstanding. The adjacent, administratively endorsed wilderness proposal on the Sheldon Antelope Range enhances the subunit's wilderness potential.

Subunit B is in a generally natural appearance and possesses some opportunity for recreation and solitude within the unit itself. The contiguous wilderness proposal on the Sheldon Refuge Sage Hen Hills tract enhances the wilderness potential of Subunit B. When the two areas are considered in conjunction with each other, the opportunities for solitude and recreation are outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-148

Unit Name: Miller Creek

Description

Size: 6,480 acres.

Location: Approximately one mile west of Gerber Reservoir.

Boundaries: The west boundary is private land. The north and east boundaries are well maintained cinder roads. The south boundary is the Schnipps Valley Road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a relatively flat plateau cut by Miller Creek Canyon. Miller Creek Canyon is a deep canyon with basalt cliffs. The canyon runs the full length of the unit and is approximately 300-400 yards wide. The unit has sage flats, as well as juniper and ponderosa pine near the canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The southern half of the unit below Miller Creek contains Big Adobe Reservoir. A large area north of Big Adobe Reservoir has been severely affected by blading of channels to drain water into the reservoir. There is a bladed way and fenceline immediately south of Miller Creek on the east. The northern portion of the unit contains five miles of ways, two fencelines, and two unobtrusive water developments. The cumulative impacts of man's works are substantially noticeable, and the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: The small size, general flat terrain, and lack of substantial vegetative cover prevent one from escaping the sights and sounds of others in the majority of the unit. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunity for hunting, hiking, wildlife observation and photography. These opportunities are not outstanding within this unit.

Supplemental Values: Miller Creek is a scenic drainage which has high aesthetic values. It offers good opportunities for wildlife observation. There is potential for archaeological sites in the unit; but have not yet been documented

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concuring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria as it has been affected by the works of man. A small portion of the unit in Miller Creek offers some solitude and recreational potential; however, the opportunities are severely restricted and are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-149

Unit Name: Bumpheads

Description

Size: 18,560 acres of public land; 320 acres of State inholdings.

Location: Four miles south of Gerber Reservoir.

Boundaries: BLM roads and private lands. A number of dead-end roads intrude from the perimeter into the unit.

Physical Characterisitics: The unit contains large flat areas with a few low rolling hills which add slight topographic variation. Woolen Canyon and The Bumpheads are significant geologic features in the unit. The Bumpheads are basalt outcrops adjacent to Bumpheads Reservoir. Copeland and Bumphead Reservoirs are both large reservoirs in the unit, approximately 200 acres each. The vegetation of the unit consists of low sage with juniper and ponderosa pine in isolated stands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 27 miles of ways and intrusion roads and ten miles of fenceline. Bumphead, Copeland and Dog Hollow Reservoirs represent significant evidence of man's activities within the unit. The large number of roads and ways, as well as reservoirs, are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: One cannot experience outstanding solitude within the unit. The majority of the terrain is flat and lacks screening or other features which would allow one to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities are extremely poor within this unit because of the lack of natural areas in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None presently documented.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from futher review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear in a generally natural condition as the imprints of mans work are substantial noticeable. In addition, it does not offer outstanding opportuntiies for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 1-155

Unit Name: Swan Lake Rim

Subunits: The unit contains 8,760 acres. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 6,000 acres (A with 2,440 acres; C with 160 acres and D with 680 acres) and do not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 1-155B

Description

Size: 5,480 acres.

Location: One-half mile north of Dairy.

Boundaries: The north boundary is BLM Road 6183. The east boundary is private land and Road W72. The south and west boundaries are defined by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The Swan Lake Rim consists of a high ridge with a steep scarp on the west face and a low angle slope on the east which leads to further foothills toward the north and a flat plain on the south. The ridge is north-to-south trending for a distance of approximately 11 miles. The unit contains ponderosa pine and incense cedar as well as juniper and large brushy stands of mahogany and manzanita.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are ten reservoirs, two miles of fenceline, a large gravel operation on the south edge of the unit, and a way on the south that has been seeded to prevent erosion. Due to the cumulative impacts of the listed intrusions, the area is substantially affected by the works of man. It does not appear to be essentially natural.

Solitude: Because of its extremely narrow configuration, limited size, and topographic and vegetative condition the subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The area does offer opportunity for day hiking, wildlife observation, and hunting. These opportunities are not outstanding because one's activities would be confined within the narrow boundaries of the unit.

__Supplemental Values__: The unit offers deer habitat and nesting areas for bald eagles.

__Proposed Decision__: Eliminate from further review.

__Summary of Public Comments__: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decisin.

__Final Decision__: Eliminate from further review.

__Rationale__: This unit does not appear in a generally natural condition and does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

__Unit Number__: 1-157/CA-020-1005

__Unit Name__: Coleman Valley West/Colman Ranch

This unit includes public lands in both Oregon and Nevada. The Nevada lands are administered by the BLM Susanville District Office in California. The public lands in Oregon are located in two pieces which are not contiguous to each other in Oregon but which are both contiguous to the public lands in Nevada. The two arms in Oregon were listed in the initial inventory report and shown on the initial inventory map as Units 1-157 and 1-162. Because they are parts of one piece of contiguous public land crossing the state line, the lands formerly in Unit 1-162 are now included in Unit 1-157. The following narrative describes all of the contiguous public lands in both states.

__Description__

__Size__: The unit contains 23,005 acres--10,000 acres in Oregon and 13,005 acres in Nevada. Inholdings include 360 acres of private land at Cahill Reservoir and another 40-acre parcel in Oregon and 880 acres of private land in scattered tracts in Nevada.

__Location__: Ten miles south of Adel.

__Boundaries__: The northeast arm in Oregon is bounded by BLM Road 6172 and spurs on the west, and Road W7 and private lands on the east. The northwest arm in Oregon is bounded by a 500-KV powerline road on the west, private land on the north, and BLM Road 6172C and private land on the east. The lands in Nevada are bounded by the powerline road on the west, by the Barrel Springs Road and private land on the south, and by roads and private land on the east.

__Physical Characteristics__: The west side of the unit is a low plateau dissected by Twelvemile and Horse Creeks. Elevations rise sharply east of the Horse Creek drainage. Most of the rest of the unit contains low, rolling hills with a few rocks, ridgelines, and shallow drainages. A small mountain range extends from the northeast arm in Oregon south a few miles into Nevada. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass, scattered juniper, and isolated stands of ponderosa pine.

__Wilderness Criteria__

__Size__: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

__Naturalness__: Because of the overall effect of reservoir developments, spring developments, and roads, the northern four miles of the northeast portion of the unit do not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. This portion contains three developed springs and very noticeable roads leading to Terry Spring and Cahill Reservoir. Two small reservoirs are located in the north end. The northwest arm of the unit is very narrow, and it is significantly affected by the 500-kV powerline along the west boundary. The southern portion is affected to a minor degree by a few miles of ways and several pit reservoirs, but it remains generally natural in appearance.

Solitude: The unit offers only marginal opportunities to avoid the presence of others in the unit due to the generally open terrain, the broad flat areas, and little vegetative screening. The small size of the portion retaining a mostly natural condition further restricts opportunities for solitude. The stream drainages in the unit offer minor areas of solitude for small numbers of people.

Recreation: The unit has potential for hunting and wildlife observation with limited potential as a day use area. The limited size of the portion remaining in a natural condition and the absence of unique or interesting terrain or vegetation limit the recreational attractiveness of the unit. It does not offer any outstanding recreation opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit may contain some archaeological values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: A proposed decision for the California portion was announced in 1979 and public comments were accepted for 90 days. However, the California State Director deferred the final decision until the public had an opportunity to comment on proposed decisions on all lands in the unit. The proposed decision on the California portion was reannounced in the Spring of 1980 to coincide with the public comment period for the proposed decision in Oregon. Comments received by BLM offices in both states concurred with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate form further review.

Rationale: Most of the unit is natural in character but offers only marginal opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; the opportunities are not outstanding.

Unit Number: 1-158

Unit Name: Breezy

Description

Size: 6,240 acres

Location: Approximately 18 miles east of Adel.

Boundaries: The north boundary is Oregon Highway 140. The west boundary is Oregon State land and a subunit of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge. The south boundary is the Nevada state line which also serves as the boundary of the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: The unit forms a very narrow strip between the Nevada state line and Oregon Highway 140. The upland portion of the unit is a sage flat. Guano Rim is located on the west side of the unit. A portion of Stateline Canyon is in the central portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one way on the southwest below Daugherty Slide and a way on the Oregon side of a fence along the state boundary. The fenceline is visible from the majority of the unit. The unit is dominated by the imprints of man's work because of its small size, narrow shape and the proximity of the boundary road to the fence. The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude: With its extremely narrow shape, flat terrain and the lack of adequate screening, the unit offers little opportunity for solitude. One cannot find solitude in the unit as any location is visible from some point along the northern boundary.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunity for hunting, but very little opportunity for any other form of primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: This unit is adjacent to a proposed wilderness area on the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge. The unit is exposed from the Refuge fence to the north boundary and contains a flatland which detracts from any potential value as an addition to the refuge proposal.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The opposing comment suggests that the unit has been dropped from further review because its southern boundary is adjacent to Nevada and the Charles Sheldon Antlelpe Range and because of the fence along the state line. It also argues that the unit's wilderness values are indicated by the fact that it is adjacent to an area of the Sheldon Range that has been proposed for wilderness designation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: During the inventory and review of this unit meetings took place with the manager and staff of the Sheldon Antelope Refuge to discuss the feasability of combining this unit with Sheldon proposals. Because the unit is so exposed to the traffic on Highway 140, flat and very narrow from the refuge fence to the north boundary, it was not evaluated as a suitable addition to wilderness recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The unit does not meet any WSA criteria on its own merit.

Unit Number: 1-159

Unit Name: Catlow Valley

Description

Size: 58,000 acres of public land. The unit also contains one 320-acre private inholding and 2,280 acres of State land inholding located in 4 school sections.

Location: Adjacent to the northeast corner of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

Boundaries: BLM Roads 7165 A, W 68 and W 67; 11 miles of scattered private land boundary and 10 miles of Antelope Refuge Boundary on the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a vast sage flat which rises in elevation to rolling terrain on the northwest. There are approximately eight miles of basalt rim on the northeast where the unit drops into Duhaime Flat. The unit is cut diagonally by Buckhorn Canyon and its tributaries. The canyon country has rolling terrain with shallow draws. Vegetation on the unit is a sagebrush community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 19 miles of vehicle ways. One of the ways passes approximately five miles up Buckhorn Canyon and is substantially noticeable within the confines of the canyon. There are five miles of fenceline in the unit which are substantially unnoticeable. The Duhaime Flat portion of the unit contains a spray/seeding area of approximately 3,000 acres and is definitely affected by the works of man. The majority of the acreage south of Duhaime Flat remains in an apparently natural condition.

Solitude: The unit is large enough to afford some degree of solitude even with the generally flat terrain in the unit. The shallow canyons feeding into Buckhorn Canyon would also provide some degree of solitude. The exposed topography in the majority of the area, and the limited offerings of canyons do not represent an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The unit offers limited hunting potential. However, this activity is normally done with motor vehicles in this region. With the broad expanses of sage flats and limited potable water in the unit hiking and backpacking would be possible, but would not represent a high quality experience. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None presently recognized.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Fourteen comments were recieved. Two concur with the proposed decision and twelve oppose it. Eight of those in favor of the unit being identified as a WSA provide no information or positive evaluations of its wilderness values. Two comments argue that the unit's size and terrain combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. One sugests that outstanding solitude is available in Buckhorn Canyon. One suggests that the unit's size alone ought to be enough to consider the opportunities for solitude as being outstanding; but, if not, that BLM should consider this unit along with adjacent roadless land on the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: The report on the proposed decision noted that the unit's large size did indeed offer some degree of solitude, but that the opportunity was not outstanding within the region (i.e., when the opportunity was considered with others of its kind). Most of Buckhorn Canyon is a shallow draw and does not contain noteworthy topographic relief. Burns and Lakeview District personnel jointly examined the unit as a result of the public comments and concluded that the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Though large, it is very flat. The area does offer solitude, but the presence of others in the unit is fairly readily detected and the openness leaves one exposed to others. The recreation potential on the unit is minimal. As with all areas in the region, a person can hike across large expanses of sage flats. However, the opportunities for activities as horseback riding, camping, hunting or other primitive pursuits are not outstanding. The unit offers no features or combination of features which constitute an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation activities.

Unit Number: 1-164/CA-020-1004

Unit Name: Snuff/Twelve Mile Creek

Description

Size: The interstate unit contains approximately 16,130 acres of contiguous public land lying partially in the States of Oregon (1,440 acres) and California (14,690). It encompasses two 160-acre private inholdings.

Location: Twelve miles south of Adel.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary of the unit is a road adjoining a 500-kV powerline. The west boundary is County Road 3-14 (Adel-Ft. Bidwell Road) and private land. The south boundary is the Barrel Springs Road.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of low rolling hills. The Fifteem Mile Creek drainage crosses the northwest portion of the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush, juniper and a few scattered pines in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The majority of the unit has retained mostly a natural condition. The existing man-created impacts--ways and pit reservoirs--are low-profiled and scattered; they are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: This unit, with the close access of a major road, its small size and general exposures, does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit is located in an active hunting area, and there are some scenic and hiking values along Fifteen Mile Creek. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation, as potential on the unit is limited.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values recognized in this unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: A proposed decision for the California portion was announced in 1979, and public comments were accepted for 90 days. However, the California State Director deferred the final decision until the public had an opportunity to comment on proposed decisions on all lands in the unit. The proposed decision on the California portion was reannounced in the Spring of 1980 to coincide with the public comment period in Oregon. Two comments were received by BLM offices in Oregon; both concurred with the proposed decision. Comments received by BLM offices in California also concurred with the proposed decision. One commment received in California objected to excluding this and other units from further study based upon a judgement that the area lacks topographic and vegetative screening.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: A joint inventory by Susanville and Lakeview District personnel concluded that the unit does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The topography and vegetation do not provide sufficient screening to provide users outstanding opportunities to avoid others in the unit.

BURNS DISTRICT

Unit Number: 2-18

Unit Name: Skull Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-18 contains 8,795 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into seven subunits. Six of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 20 to 1,305 acres. None of the six subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-18G.

Description

Size: 6,850 acres of public land with a 160-acre private inholding.

Location: 13 miles northwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north and south boundaries are roads; the east boundary is a road and State land; and the west boundary is formed by roads and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography ranges from broad, flat, rocky areas to gently rolling hills with a well defined canyon (Skull Creek) in the north. The general elevation is 4,800 feet. The vegetation includes big and low sagebrush, ponderosa pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, and bitterbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five scattered reservoirs and a network of 12 miles of ways have a cumulative effect on the naturalness of this subunit. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout subunit 2-18G. An 80 acre seeding in the northwest and four miles of fenceline are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The broad, flat areas covered with low sagebrush do not provide an opportunity for solitude. The draws with juniper and some pine provide a better opportunity for screening but the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding because of the small size of the subunit, the narrow elongated shape (one to one and one-half miles wide by six miles long), the proximity of the draws to each other, and the lack of sufficient topographic screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for rockhounding, fishing, hunting (deer, antelope, elk, sage grouse), hiking, and horseback riding. However, none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources; deer summer range occurs in the southwest portion of the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit G, the only one of seven subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria, does not appear to be free of the imprint of man's work as man-made developments are substantially noticeable within this subunit. In addition, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The only public comment received for the unit supports the proposed decision and there is no new information to support a change.

Unit Number: 2-19

Unit Name: Silvies River

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-19 is located five miles northwest of Burns. It contains 7,520 acres of public land. Three roads divide the area into three subunits. All of these areas contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres of public land (from 970 to 3,940 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. There has been no new information obtained to warrant a change from the proposed decision. The only comment received supports this decision.

Unit Number: 2-30

Unit Name: Palomino Buttes

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-30 contains 13,075 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into 11 subunits. Of the 11 subunits, ten contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 25 to 1,520 acres. None of the ten subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and they are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-30K

Description

Size: 7,885 acres of public land with a 640 acre private inholding.

Location: 17 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land and one-quarter mile of State land; the east boundary is a BLM road and private land; the south boundary is private land, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land, and a BLM road; and the west boundary is private land, roads, and Malheur Refuge land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists primarily of broad, flat areas throughout the subunit with some low hills and buttes in the north and central portions. A low rim running north-south is located near the east boundary. Freeman Butte rises to 4,525 feet in the north. The vegetation includes big sagebrush, grasses, and greasewood with limited juniper in the butte areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A three-acre cinder pit near the west boundary road is substantially noticeable. A reservoir, corral, and two ways all in the northeast corner are substantially unnoticeable as is a way and fenceline in the south. The subunit (excluding the cinder pit) appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The flat terrain with a few low hills does not provide a user an outstanding opportunity for solitude when coupled with a lack of sufficient vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Range for antelope and wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit K is the only subunit to meet any of the minimum size criteria. The subunit appears to be generally natural (excluding the three-acre cinder pit) with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision. No new information has been obtained to support a change in the decision.

Unit Number: 2-43

Unit Name: Wagontire Mountain

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-43 contains 48,875 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into six subunits. Of these six subunits, two contain fewer than 5,000 acres (2,765 and 3,830 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area, and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-43A

Description

Size: 9,590 acres.

Location: Seven miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of approximately four miles of private land on the west side.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit is comprised of flat to gently rolling topography. The topography on the east side of the subunit is slightly more diverse with several small but pronounced drainages flowing toward the center of the area. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass, with some scattered juniper occurring on the east side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The developments are limited to less than two miles of vehicle ways, less than one mile of fence, and one reservoir. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition; man's imprint is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunitites for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunites for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, and hunting. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-43B

Description

Size: 10,600 acres.

Location: 18 miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of a mile of private land in both the southwest and northwest corners.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is typified by flat to gently rolling terrain. Within the central portion, the topography consists of gently rolling hills while on the west a small flat-topped ridge rises above the valley floor. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout, with some patches of scattered juniper in the area of rolling hills near the center of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, four miles of fenceline, and about 920 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The seeding area is located in the east portion of the subunit; it is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and viewing wildlife, however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-43D

Description

Size: 7,985 acres.

Location: Two miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a parcel of State land and a parcel of private land on the east boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Most of this subunit consists of gently rolling topography with small buttes and areas of rimrock scattered throughout. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass with scattered juniper through much of the area and an occasional heavy stand of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately six miles of fence, six reservoirs, and about six miles of vehicle ways. These developments alone are substantially unnoticeable. In addition, approximately 2,250 acres have been seeded to crested wheatgrass for fire rehabilitation. This seeding is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. Due to the nature of the seeding, the elimination of the seeded acreage would result in a total of about 3,100 acres of the subunit being dropped (some acreage within the boundary of the seeding was not seeded). The substantial amount of seeding combined with the other developments within the subunit have a cumulative impact which make the area appear to be in an unnatural condition.

Solitude: The scattered pockets of heavy juniper and somewhat diverse topography create areas within the subunit where a visitor could obtain a feeling of solitude. However, because of the relatively small size of the area (even smaller with the elimination of the seeded area) it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife. While these opportunities are good in much of this area because of the topography and vegetation, they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-43F

Description

Size: 13,100 acres of public land.

Location: Seven miles northwest of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north and east by private land and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of this subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Although the south end of the subunit contains some moderate sized buttes (some edged with rimrock), the terrain flattens toward the north end of the area. The vegetation in the subunit is primarily sagebrush and grass; however, there are some areas within the subunit which contain moderate stands of juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs, one well, three miles of fence, approximately 650 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, and about eight miles of vehicle ways. These developments are fairly well dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable with the exception of one way which is a much more visible scar due to the amount of past use. The subunit generally appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains a few small areas where the topography and vegetation provide some screening; however, these areas are generally quite small and widely scattered. In general, the subunit consists of relatively open terrain where broad vistas are common and little opportunity for seclusion exists. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for a visitor to obtain solitude.

Recreation: Subunit 2-43F provides opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, hunting, and horseback riding. None of these opportunities, however, are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: A way in the subunit was a travel route in early settlement days and has historical value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of them disagrees with the determination about solitude, and the other suggests combining Subunits 2-43A, B, D and F with 2-44C. It argues that the combined size will provide the opportunities for solitude that the terrain and vegetation of the individual subunits lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Unit 2-43 contains four subunits (A, B, D, and F) which meet the minimum size criteria. With the exception of a 930 acre crested wheatgrass seeding in Subunit B, Subunits A, B, and F all appear to be in a basically natural condition. Subunit D, on the other hand, is not considered to be in a generally natural condition due to the cumulative impacts of the man-made developments within the subunit. In addition, it is felt that none of these subunits offers outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive types of recreation. It would not be appropriate during the wilderness inventory to combine the subunits of 2-43 and Subunit 2-44C, as advocated in one comment. The BLM was mandated to inventory roadless areas. To combine these subunits which are divided by roads would clearly violate this mandate. With respect to the comment which disagrees with the BLM's determination of solitude, it was felt during the inventory of this area, and confirmed by a re-evaluation of the unit, that none of the subunits contained a sufficient amount of topographic or vegetative screening, when their relatively small size is taken into consideration, to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Unit Number: 2-44

Unit Name: Tired Horse

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-44 contains approximately 8,275 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the unit into three subunits. Two of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (400 acres and 360 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-44C

Description

Size: 7,515 acres of public land

Location: Four miles southeast of Stauffer.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land, BLM roads and adjacent BLM land in the north, and roads and adjacent BLM land on the remaining sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit consists of gently rolling hills and flat land. The highest point is a small isolated butte near the center of the subunit. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass throughout most of the area with some widely scattered juniper on the west side of the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The man-made developments within the subunit include three reservoirs which are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers no topographic screening and the scattered juniper provides little or no vegetative screening. There is no place within the subunit where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The recreation opportunties within this subunit are limited. Opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope) exist but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests combining Subunit 2-44C with Subunits 2-43A, B, D, and F, so that the larger combined unit will provide outstanding opportunities for solitude that cannot be found in the individual subunits.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Only Subunit C meets any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The subunit appears to be generally free of the imprint of man but it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. Because the BLM is mandated to inventory roadless areas, it is not possible to combine Subunit 2-44C with the Subunits of Unit 2-43 as recommended by the comment. Re-evaluation of this subunit confirms that the road dividing it from 2-43A is a road and that the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-47

Unit Name: Surprise Lake

Description

Size: 21,940 acres of public land, with three private land inholdings totaling 560 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Riley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by U. S. Highway 20 and private land on the north; BLM roads and adjacent BLM land on the east and south; and a combination of State land, private land, BLM roads and adjacent BLM land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topography throughout most of this unit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Areas in the north and southwest portions of the unit are made up of low ridges lined with rimrock and some small hills. The dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, grass and rabbitbrush, although patches of scattered juniper occur near the ridgelines and in the hills along the western edge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this unit are 17 reservoirs, 14 miles of fence, 11 miles of vehicle ways, and 1 mile of powerline. Although these developments are dispersed throughout the unit, they have a cumulative impact on the naturalness of the unit. The imprint of man's work is present throughout the unit and the area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling topography and low vegetation throughout most of the unit restrict the possibility of a visitor finding a secluded spot. Those areas where the topographic and vegetative screening is greater are not very large, and broad vistas are common. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife (antelope), and hunting (primarily deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The comment received supports the proposed decision and there is no new information to warrant a change. The imprint of man's work within this unit is substantially noticeable causing the area to appear to be in a generally unnatural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Unit Number: 2-48

Unit Name: Hay Lake

Description

Size: 18,350 acres of public land, with inholdings of 640 acres of State land in a one-section parcel, and one 80-acre parcel of private land.

Location: 12 miles west of Riley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by U. S. Highway 20, private land and State land on the north; a powerline and an associated access (maintenance) road, a BLM road, and Squaw Butte Experiment Station on the east; and BLM roads and adjacent BLM lands on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The extreme north end consists of rolling hills and one rimrock-edged ridge. The remaining two-thirds are basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, grass, and scattered patches of rabbitbrush throughout, with scattered juniper in the north.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this unit there are 15 reservoirs, five miles of ways, seven miles of fenceline, and approximately 1,800 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. These developments, although dispersed, have a cumulative impact on the naturalness of the area. The developments occur frequently enough that a visitor would find man's imprint substantially noticeable within the unit.

Solitude: Although the north portion contains some topographic diversity and a limited amount of vegetative screening, this part is, at the most, only one to two miles wide. This portion is not of sufficient size, nor does it have sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to provide an outstanding feeling of solitude. The remainder of the unit, which is essentially flat with no vegetative screening, prevents the unit as a whole from allowing a visitor to obtain an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work within the unit is substantially noticeable to the point that the area no longer appears to be in a natural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The only comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision. No other information has been obtained to support a change.

Unit Number: 2-49

Unit Name: Sheep Lake

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-49 contains 28,965 acres of public land. Roads divide the unit into three subunits. Of these three subunits, two are less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 800 to 3,520 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-49C

Description

Size: 24,645 acres of public land. Inholdings include 640 acres of State land and 120 acres of private land in three 40-acre parcels.

Location: 13 miles northwest of Riley.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by State land, BLM roads and adjacent public land and the Ochoco National Forest; on the east by private land; on the south by a powerline access road and adjacent public land; and on the west by private land and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The northwestern half is comprised of a series of ridges running from the northwest to the southeast. These ridges are edged with rimrock, are separated by one-half to two-mile-wide valleys, and contain one or more ephemeral lakes. The remainder of the subunit is basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass. Scattered juniper is common throughout most of the subunit except in the northeastern corner where there is none. It is much heavier along the ridgelines.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit contains 37 reservoirs and spring developments, ten miles of fence, eight miles of vehicle ways, and two miles of irrigation ditch. Views of man-made developments are common from most of the overlook areas along the ridges. Although dispersed throughout the subunit, the visibility and quantity of these developments have a cumulative impact that make man's imprint substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of the topographic variation and vegetative screening within much of this subunit, the area provides outstanding opportunities for visitors to screen themselves from the presence of others or to find a secluded spot. This subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and hunting. The opportunities for these activities, however, are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Within this subunit cultural resources of various types were observed. The area also offers opportunities for viewing off-site scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit C is the only subunit which meets any of the minimum size criteria. Although the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, the area appears to be in a generally unnatural condition with man's imprint substantially noticeable, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The comment received for this unit concurs with the proposed decision and there is no new information which supports a change.

Unit Number: 2-50

Unit Name: Claw Creek

Description

Size: 8,600 acres.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Riley.

Boundaries: The western and southern boundaries are defined by roads and public land; the east boundary is Ochoco National Forest, private, and State land; the north boundary is public and private land and a road.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation varies from 4,500 ft. to 5,900 feet. The northern and western half of the unit is comprised of rolling lowlands next to Claw Creek and rounded ridge uplands. The other half of the area to the south and east contains more well defined ridges. Intermittent streams drain southwest across the unit. The area contains ponderosa pine, juniper and mountain mahogany in the ridge topography and low and big sage in the upland and lowland areas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The cumulative effect of four water developments, five miles of ways, a small abandoned borrow pit area and three-fourths mile of fenceline is that the area does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout the unit.

Solitude: The ridge topography in the south and east portions offer an approximate one-mile wide corridor with good ponderosa pine and juniper cover. The other portions of the unit, with their flat to rolling topography, lack of vegetative cover, and shallow drainages offer very little opportunity for screening. Due to the size of the unit, the narrow configuration and the lack of topographic screening, the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hunting (deer, antelope, elk, and upland game) hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. However, none of these are considered to be outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Elk use the area for winter range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this unit. In addition, the unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The single comment received for this unit agrees with the proposed decision. No new information has been obtained to support a change in the decision.

Unit Number: 2-52

Unit Name: Miller Canyon

Description

Size: 5,805 acres.

Location: Seven miles north of Riley.

Boundaries: The Ochoco National Forest forms the north boundary; Miller Canyon Road and public land form the east boundary; and private and public land form the south and west boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The greater part of the unit is rolling ridge topography. A small area of flat lowlands is located in the south-central portion. Intermittent shallow stream drainages cut through the area. The range of elevation is between 4,500 and 5,500 feet. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass in the lowland. Juniper appears in the foothills. Pine and mountain mahogany grow in the higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A drilled seeding, six reservoirs, one mile of fenceline, and 12 miles of ways are located in this unit. The northern ridge topography allows the developments in the lower elevations to be visible and the dispersion of the developments make it impossible to travel in the unit without seeing man's imprint.

Solitude: Unit 2-52 does not offer outstanding opportunties for solitude. This is primarily due to the lack of topographic or vegetative screening along the southern portion of the unit and the limited screening available in the north due to the relatively scattered pine and juniper cover along the ridges.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting. However, none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer use the area for winter range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The only comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision and there is no new information which would support a change. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-53

Unit Name: Gum Boot Canyon

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-53 contains 8,475 acres of public land. Intensive inventory identified a road which divides it into two subunits. One of the subunits contains 2,195 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-53B

Description

Size: 6,280 acres.

Location: Five miles north of Riley, Oregon.

Boundaries: Roads, private, public, and State land define the northern boundary; a road and public land define the eastern boundary; and roads, public and private land, and a dead-end road define the south and western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The elevation ranges from 4,500 ft. to 5,000 ft. The topography ranges from gently sloping lowlands to ridged uplands with well defined drainages. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush, low sagebrush, bitterbrush, juniper, and mountain mahogany.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two dugout lakebeds, two reservoirs, one spring development, two corrals, and two miles of fenceline are found within the area. These developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit's ridge topography with its juniper cover does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to its size and narrow configuration (average breadth two miles).

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and hunting. The size and configuration of the area limit the user's opportunity to find any of these forms of recreation outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area is a winter range for deer. Sage grouse strutting grounds exist within the area.

Proposed Rationale: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit B is the only subunit which meets any of the minimum size criteria. The subunit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The only comment received for this unit agreed with the proposed decision. There has been no new information obtained which supports a change in the decision.

Unit Number: 2-54

Unit Name: Saddle Butte

Description

Size: 9,120 acres of public land within one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and adjacent public land, and private land; on the east by State Highway 205 and adjacent public land; and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a flat to gently rolling valley floor around the perimeter of the unit, with a predominantly flat top plateau in the center. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains a substantially noticeable powerline along the east side affecting 275 acres. A portion of the Eagle Nest seeding intrudes into the north portion of the unit. The seeding is substantially noticeable and affects 540 acres. A powerline also extends along the northwest corner. The remainder of the unit appears to be generally free of the imprint of man with only one reservoir, three miles of vehicle ways, and two miles of fence.

Solitude: Although a plateau provides some topographic relief in the center of the unit, neither the plateau nor the surrounding area provide a substantial amount of screening. This, coupled with the lack of vegetative screening throughout the unit, prevents the unit from offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (primarily antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of 815 acres affected by the powerline and seeding, the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The only comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision and there has been no new information received to support a change.

Unit Number: 2-55

Unit Name: Frenchglen

Description

Size: 65,925 acres of public land. Inholdings include 640 acres of State land and 1,720 acres of private land.

Location: Adjacent to and northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private land on the north, a State highway and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land on the east, private land and a county road on the south; and State land, private land, BLM roads, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This area contains a wide variety of topography. Most of the unit lies atop a plateau which rises 1,000 feet above the Blitzen Valley to the east. Many smaller ridges, buttes, canyons, and intermittent lakes are located between the ridgeline which forms the top of the plateau and the valley below. This ridge area is 12 miles long, but at its widest point it is less than one and one-half miles wide. On top of the plateau in the northern end of the unit, Jackass Butte rises about 400 feet above the flat to gently rolling land to the south. In the middle of the unit are several moderate sized buttes. The southwest side of the sub-unit contains two canyons which cut through the plateau. The southern portion of the unit contains the LaVoy Tables, a relatively flat-topped mesa. South of the rim which surrounds this end of the unit is the northern end of the Catlow Valley. Most of the unit is covered with sagebrush and grass; however, patches of juniper occur in the area, especially in the central portion and along the east side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains a large number of developments, including nine miles of dead-end roads, 58 miles of vehicle ways, 34 reservoirs, six miles of fence, one open dump, one borrow pit, a radio facility, a powerline which intermittently cuts through the east side of the area, and a power substation. With a few exceptions most of these developments are substantially unnoticeable on an individual basis. However, the ways and dead-end roads crisscross the unit and most of the other developments are associated with these travel routes. It would be difficult for a visitor to travel through the unit without encountering a man-made development. In addition, many of the developments are visible from higher points within the unit. The cumulative impact of these developments makes man's imprint within the area substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Much of the area is flat to gently rolling, has little vegetative screening, and offers little opportunity for solitude. Portions of the unit have diverse topography and vegetation which is tall enough to provide areas for individuals to screen themselves from the presence of others. However, these areas are generally small, isolated, and few in number (e.g., the long narrow strip along the ridgeline on the eastern side and isolated spots in the center of the area). In addition, the long and relatively narrow configuration of the unit and the large intrusion of private land on the western side limit opportunities for solitude. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This unit provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, sightseeing, and fishing. Most of these opportunities are only fair to good. Hiking, chukar hunting, and sightseeing provide the best opportunities along the eastern side. The unit as a whole, however, does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: Many raptors nest along the ridge from Frenchglen south to the end of the unit. The unit also contains scenic values because of the views of off-site features such as the Malheur Wildlife Refuge and the west side of Steens Mountain.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision, and one suggests that the natural portions of the unit be a WSA. The comment identifies raptor nesting areas and scenic values as characteristics favoring a change of the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Due to the presence of numerous developments which, cumulatively, are substantially noticeable, this unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Raptor nesting areas and areas of scenic value are supplemental values. See Appendix in this report for the definition in the 1964 Wilderness Act of supplemental values. An area must meet the size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation criteria to be designated a wilderness study area. The existence of supplemental values is not sufficient basis, in and of itself, for designation of a study area. Most of the scenic values which are present within this unit are off-site views of the Catlow Valley, Steens Mountain, the Malheur Refuge, and portions of the lower Donner und Blitzen River. The scenic values within the unit which have been considered as on-site recreational values occur primarily along the eastern boundary. The views within this portion of the unit are good but are not outstanding. As stated above, however, the most significant factor influencing the decision is the substantially noticeable imprints of man's work throughout the unit.

Unit Number: 2-56

Unit Name: Black Rim

Description

Size: 13,555 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Ten miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent BLM land except for a mile of private land in the southwest corner.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of a series of parallel flat top ridges. The land between the ridges and along the south and west sides is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains ten reservoirs, 12 miles of ways, and less than one mile of fence. Ten acres around one of the reservoirs near the northern boundary are heavily scarred and constitute a major intrusion. The remaining developments are dispersed throughout the unit. Cumulatively, they are a substantially noticeable imprint of man's work.

Solitude: Although the ridges in the northeast portion of the unit provide some topographic relief, it is not sufficient to provide areas where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife (horses and antelope), and hunting (primarily antelope); however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision and no additional information has been received to support a change. The unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition as the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunites for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-57

Unit Name: Jackass Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-57 contains 19,255 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into five subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 250 to 2,225 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-57A

Description

Size: 14,580 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by State and private land, BLM roads and adjacent public land; on the east and south by private land and BLM roads and adjacent public land; and on the west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature in this subunit is Jackass Creek Canyon. This canyon cuts across a plateau (which comprises the remainder of the subunit) from the northwest to the southeast, and is approximately four miles long. The portion of the plateau northeast of the canyon contains a few small buttes and rimrock, while the plateau area to the southwest is predominantly flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains seven reservoirs and approximately eight miles of vehicle ways. These developments are fairly well dispersed but primarily occur in the plateau area to the southwest of the canyon. In general, the developments are not substantially noticeable and the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the general lack of topographic and vegetative screening in most of this subunit, a visitor would not be provided outstanding opportunities to obtain a feeling of solitude. Jackass Creek Canyon does not offer outstanding solitude because of its short length, sloping side walls, and lack of vegetative screening in the canyon bottom.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, viewing wildlife and scenery, and hunting (primarily antelope). The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit offers off-site scenic values and a limited amount of raptor nesting sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision, and one suggests that Subunit 2-57A be a WSA. The latter comment argues that the subunit has outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its remote location and the sparse population in the area.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A is the only subunit which meets any of the minimum size criteria. Although this subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition, with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Neither of the comments submitted provides any new facts and no additional information has been obtained which would support a change from the proposed decision. The fact that this unit is in a remote location and in an area of sparse population is not a factor in assessing outstanding opportunities for solitude. In accordance with the Bureau's Wilderness Inventory Handbook (September 1978) outstanding solitude is based on the opportunities for an individual to avoid others within the unit. Such an opportunity is influenced by the physical features of the unit, including topographic and vegetative screening, the size and shape of the unit, and the relationship between these factors. Re-evaluation of this subunit confirms that these factors do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Unit Number: 2-58

Unit Name: Keg Springs

Description

Size: 22,200 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Eight miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of two one-mile wide State parcels on the south.

Physical Characteristics: This unit includes Keg Springs Valley on the south and a plateau region on the north and west. The south perimeter of the plateau is a long rimrock-edged ridge which runs the length of the unit. Both the plateau and valley areas are basically flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is typically sagebrush and grass. One small stand of scattered juniper occurs in the southeast corner along the ridge.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains seven reservoirs, approximately 11 miles of vehicle ways, and six miles of fence. These developments are somewhat concentrated on both ends of the unit but are not substantially noticeable imprints of man within the unit as a whole.

Solitude: The ridgeline through the center of the unit does not create a substantial amount of screening. The gently rolling topography and low vegetation throughout the unit would not provide an opportunity for a visitor to obtain an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this unit include hiking, viewing wildlife, hunting (primarily antelope) and horseback riding. None of these opportunities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The rim area through the middle of this unit provides nesting opportunities for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision, and one suggests that the unit be a WSA. The latter comment argues that the subunit has outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its remote location and the sparse population in the area. This comment also favors a WSA decision as the best means of protecting raptor nesting areas.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be in a generally natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Neither of the comments submitted provides any additional information which would support a change from the proposed decision. In response to the comment which recommends WSA status for this unit based on its remote location and sparse population, according to the Wilderness Inventory Handbook the evaluation of the opportunites for solitude must be based on an area's physical characteristics and the effect of those characteristics on the ability of users to avoid the presence of other visitors within the unit. The characteristics assessed in the inventory include the unit's size, shape, topography and vegetation. Re-evaluation of this unit indicates that the above factors do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. With respect to the protection of raptor nesting areas, the presence of such areas was noted as a supplemental value. The Wilderness Act states that such values may be present within wilderness areas. The presence of various supplemental values within inventory units is not sufficient reason, in and of itself, to designate an area as a WSA.

Unit Number: 2-59

Unit Name: Taylor Cabin

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-59 contains 14,850 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of the unit identified a road which divided the area into two subunits. Subunit B contains 3,760 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-59A

Description

Size: 11,090 acres of public land; one inholding of 600 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small parcel of private land on the east side.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit consists of very gently rolling to flat land. One small rim occurs in the northern portion of the unit but it is less than one mile long. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit A contains 15 reservoirs, approximately 11 miles of vehicle ways, and about one-half mile of fence. The cumulative impact of the developments within this area makes man's impact substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: The relatively flat topography and low vegetation do not provide a visitor with a chance to find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife (antelope) and hunting (primarily antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed in the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A (the only one of the two subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria) does not appear to be in a basically natural condition and does not offer either an outstanding opportunity for solitude or an outstanding opportunity for primitive types of recreation. There is no new information for this unit which would support a change in the proposed decision, and the only comment received for the unit agrees with that decision.

Unit Number: 2-60

Unit Name: Weed Lake

Description

Size: 19,520 acres of public land; one inholding of 1,240 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by private land, and by a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the east by a small parcel of private land, one mile of State land, and BLM roads and adjacent public lands; and on the south and west by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The northeast corner is basically flat but rises to a plateau in the central portion through a series of ridges and gently rolling topography. The remainder of the unit to the south consists of gently rolling hills and flat land. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass, with rabbitbrush being common in the flat land to the northeast.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains eleven reservoirs, nine miles of fence, an irrigation ditch approximately two miles long, and approximately 30 miles of vehicle ways. Although these developments are scattered throughout the unit, their quantity creates a cumulative impact which makes man's imprint substantially noticeable within this unit.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The relatively flat topography (only about four miles in the center provides even moderate topographic screening) and low vegetation do not provide opportunities for an individual to isolate or screen himself from others in the unit.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this unit include hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, and hunting (primarily antelope). The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Raptor nests are located in the rim areas in the center of the unit. This part of the unit also offers vistas of offsite scenery.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Because the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable throughout the unit, the area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition. In addition, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. No new information has been obtained concerning this unit and the only comment received supports the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 2-61

Unit Name: Foster Flat

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-61 contains 42,760 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of the unit identified a number of roads that divide Unit 2-61 into seven subunits. Three of those seven subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study area. They range in size from 300 to 2,880 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-61A

Description

Size: 5,660 acres.

Location: One-half mile from the western side of Harney Lake and about 28 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: A road and public land form the south and east boundaries; State, private, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge lands form the north boundary; while a road, private land, and public land form the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit 2-61A consists of a high terrace that drops off sharply to the north to Harney Lake Basin. A wide shallow drainage meanders across the broad open topography which characterizes the subunit. The common vegetative types are sagebrush and greasewood.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: One-quarter mile of vehicle way is the only evidence of man's work in the subunit. It is not substantially noticeable; and the subunit appears to be essentially natural.

Solitude: The lowland in the south rises gently but steadily to the north, allowing visitors to be highly visible throughout most of the area. The wide and shallow drainages allow little screening. The rim area in the north does provide some opportunity to find seclusion; however, it is not outstanding. The user does not find an outstanding opportunity to avoid the evidence of others in this subunit.

Recreation: Opportunities for hiking and hunting can be found in Subunit 2-61A; however, they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area lies in a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-61D

Description

Size: The area contains 8,270 acres of contiguous public land. A 640 acre inholding of State land is located within its boundaries.

Location: The subunit is 20 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The landscape is dominated by an extensive flat terrace; it also includes a few scattered rolling hills. Drainages found within the subunit are wide and shallow, and two dry lakebeds are located along the northern border. Big sagebrush and greasewood are the most common vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs and approximately six miles of vehicle ways. The surrounding flat topography provides no points from which these developments can be viewed. None of the imprints of man's work in this subunit give the area an unnatural appearance.

Solitude: Subunit 2-61D lacks topographic or vegetative diversity. The open expansive landscape with its wide and shallow drainages provide no screening or secluded spots for the user. The area does not provide an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting and hiking are offered to the recreationist; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

__Supplemental Values__: The subunit lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

__Proposed Decision__: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

__Subunit Number__: 2-61E

__Description__

__Size__: Subunit 2-61E contains 15,470 acres of public land. Two inholdings of State land total 1,280 acres.

__Location__: 20 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

__Boundaries__: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

__Physical Characteristics__: The topography consists mainly of an extensive flat terrace with virtually no relief; a plateau is located in the extreme north. Directly below the plateau's south rim lies a shallow narrow drainage. Five dry lakebed areas are scattered throughout the area. Low sagebrush and an understory of grass comprise the subunit's common vegetative types.

__Wilderness Criteria__

__Size__: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

__Naturalness__: Six reservoirs, a corral, three miles of fenceline, and five vehicle ways totaling approximately eleven miles are found within the subunit. None of these developments are substantially noticeable because there are no high points in the landscape from which they would be readily viewed. The subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

__Solitude__: The greater part of the subunit consists of a flat terrace containing broad shallow drainages that provide no effective screening. There is no vegetative screening. The northern corner of the area has a drainage at the base of a plateau that would provide some solitude from others; however, the area is visible from the gentle slopes above it. Because of the lack of vegetative screening and the flat terrain, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

__Recreation__: Opportunities for recreational activities exist and include hiking, horseback riding and hunting; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

__Supplemental Values__: Subunit 2-61E lies in a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

__Proposed Decision__: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

__Subunit Number__: 2-61F

__Description__

__Size__: 7,350 acres.

__Location__: 23 miles northwest of Frenchglen.

__Boundaries__: The subunit is bounded on all sides by roads and public land.

__Physical Characteristics__: A few gently rolling hills give little definition to the generally flat terrace. Dry lakebeds covered with sparse vegetation are located throughout the area. Low sagebrush and bitterbrush are the most common vegetative types found within the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, and two and one-half miles of fenceline. None of these developments are substantially noticeable, and the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: The long and narrow configuration (six miles by three miles) and the gently rolling to flat topography with its low-growing vegetation and dry lakebeds provide only limited screening. This area provides little opportunity for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hunting, hiking and viewing wildlife. However, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Subunit 2-61F lies in a migratory waterfowl flyway located between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One comment seems to suggest that the unit not be subdivided and that, in spite of being essentially flat, it offers opportunities for solitude because of its size. Opportunities for hiking, camping and bird watching in a pristine area are cited as further reasons in favor of identifying this unit as a WSA. The other comment suggests that Subunits 2-61A, D, E, and F, and Units 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70 and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which are lacking in the individual units.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunits A, D, E, and F are the only subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria. All four of the subunits appear to be in a generally natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. However, none of the subunits offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. None of the comments submitted for this unit provided any new information which would support a change from the proposed decision. Re-evaluation of the unit with respect to the area being subdivided by roads, confirms the existence of the roads which cross this unit. None of the subunits created by these roads possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. In response to the comment which suggests that the subunits of 2-61 be designated as WSAs because of their location adjacent to other units, this is not a feasible alternative. Each unit or subunit must be evaluated on its own merits regardless of the characteristics of adjacent areas.

Unit Number: 2-62

Unit Name: Nothing There

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-62 contains 10,620 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into three subunits. Two of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres; 2-62A contains 380 acres and 2-62B contains 2,285 acres. These two subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-62C

Description

Size: 7,955 acres.

Location: 24 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: The north boundary is formed by BLM roads and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land; the east boundary is a BLM road and private property; the south boundary is a BLM road and State land; and the west boundary is BLM roads. A half-mile dead-end road leads to a reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The topography varies from flat to gently rolling with several long, low ridges running northwest to southeast containing some scattered rimrock. A 300-acre saltgrass flat is located in the northwest. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grass with saltgrass and greasewood on the flat. The general elevation is 4,500 feet.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A reservoir, two ways, and a 150-acre fenced, crested wheatgrass seeding are all substantially noticeable and occur together in the south part of the subunit next to the boundary road. The total acreage of this unnatural portion is 230 acres. The remainder of subunit 2-62C is generally natural.

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling topography and the lack of sufficient vegetative screening do not provide a user with an outstanding opportunity to avoid the presence of others or to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses and burros use this area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment does not provide any information about the unit's wilderness characteristics, nor any reasons for changing the original evaluations.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit C is the only one of three subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria. With the exception of a 230 acre area in the southern part of the subunit, the subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition. Subunit C does not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. There was no new information provided by either of the comments and no reason given for changing the proposed decision, and the proposed decision has not been changed.

Unit Number: 2-63

Unit Name: Chicken Feed Lake

Subunits: Inventory unit 2-63 contains 12,800 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into two subunits. Subunit 2-63A contains 170 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-63B

Description

Size: 12,630 acres.

Location: 28 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads and State land on the north; roads and private land on the east; roads on the south; and a road, private land, and State land on the west. A mile-long dead-end road leads to a reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The topography ranges from broad, flat expanses to gently rolling areas. Several long, low ridges with some scattered rimrock run northwest to southeast. The general elevation is 4,600 feet. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grasses with some rabbitbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The Chicken Feed Lake Reservoir area (3 acres) and a fenced crested wheatgrass seeding covering 300 acres in the northeast corner are substantially noticeable imprints of man. The remainder of the subunit appears to be generally natural. Two reservoirs, one well with a short road leading to it, and two ways totaling two miles are substantially unnoticeable developments scattered in the subunit.

Solitude: This subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to a lack of sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening. A user does not have an outstanding opportunity to find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Wild horses and burros use this subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The comment received for this unit provided no new information for the area and agreed with the proposed decision. Of the two subunits which comprise this unit only subunit B meets the minimum size criteria. With the exception of 303 acres, this subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-64

Unit Name: Buzzard Creek

Subunits: Unit 2-64 contains 34,495 acres of public land. Intensive inventory identified a number of roads which divide the unit into seven subunits. Five of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land

and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The subunits range from 160 to 3,730 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-64A

Description

Size: 14,140 acres.

Location: Approximately eight miles southwest of Harney Lake, and about 28 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and adjacent public land bound the subunit on all sides with the exception of a State parcel intruding on the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains an extensive terrace with some scattered rimrock and rolling hills. Deep Canyon, a broad and open drainage, traverses the south and southeast portions. Big and low sagebrush are the dominant vegetation types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains four reservoirs and four vehicle ways totaling approximately six miles. All of the developments are dispersed and located near the perimeter of the area. The developments are not substantially noticeable; the subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The north portion is flat and open, and it does not provide sufficient area for seclusion. Deep Canyon in the middle of the area would provide the best opportunity for solitude. However, there is not enough elevation difference around the drainage for the visitors to sufficiently screen themselves from others in the area. The remaining south portion consists of broad, open rolling hills which would allow the visitor to be highly visible. The area does not offer outstanding solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hiking are present in this area; they are not outstanding, however.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley, Oregon. Some raptor nesting sites may be located in the rimrock areas.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-64B

Description

Size: 14,570 acres.

Location: The area is located approximately five miles southwest of Harney Lake and about 30 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the area on all sides with the exception of a State parcel on the north and a State parcel attached to a dead-end road in the interior of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of gently rolling hills, broad drainages and scattered rimrock. The common vegetative types are big and low sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition although it contains nearly twelve miles of vehicle ways, ore reservoir and a ditch. Man's imprint is substantially unnoticeable because the developments are generally dispersed and somewhat overgrown with native vegetation.

Solitude: The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevents the visitor from finding a secluded spot or avoiding the sights and sounds of others. Buzzard Creek Canyon in the south portion is not large enough to provide an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: This area offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and viewing wildlife. None of these opportunities are outstanding within the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies within a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek. The area may contain some raptor nesting sites in the rimrock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which individual units lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from wilderness review.

Rationale: Of the five subunits of Unit 2-64, only two meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. Both of the subunits appear to be in a basically natural condition but neither offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. The comments submitted for this unit provide no new information which would support a change from the proposed decision. For a response to the comment favoring WSA status for this unit, refer to the rationale section for Unit 2-61.

Unit Number: 2-65

Unit Name: Deep Canyon

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-65 contains 6,215 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory, roads were identified that divided the unit into three subunits. Two of the three subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land, and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The two subunits contain 50 and 775 acres; they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-65A

Description

Size: 5,390 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: Roads and public land bound the subunit on all sides.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is dominated by flat upland with little topographic relief. A canyon is located in the northern portion and a small rim is in the east portion. Big sagebrush, perennial bunchgrass, annual grass, and Sandberg's bluegrass are the common vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs (two on the west boundary and one on the east boundary) and four miles of vehicle ways are dispersed through the area. The developments are all substantially unnoticeable because of the adjacent terrain and vegetation.

Solitude: The canyon area offers some opportunity for solitude; however, it extends only one-half mile into the subunit and lacks vegetative screening. The remaining portions of the area lack topographic diversity and vegetative screening, preventing the user from achieving an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for activities such as wildlife viewing, hunting and hiking; however, none of these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This area lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain, Oregon to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which individual units lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further review.

Rationale: Subunit A is the only one of three subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria. Although the subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. Neither of the comments submitted for this unit provides any information which would support a change from the proposed decision. The response to the comment favoring WSA status is included in the rationale section for Units 2-61.

Unit Number: 2-67

Unit Name: Iron Mountain

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-67 contains 13,580 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic land into three subunits. Subunits A and B contain less than 5,000 acres: A contains 1,520 acres and B contains 1,900 acres. They do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-67C

Description

Size: 10,160 acres.

Location: 29 miles southwest of Burns.

Boundaries: On the north and east BLM roads and private property form the boundary; on the south BLM roads and State land; and on the west BLM roads, State land, and private land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography varies from flat to gently rolling with a few long, low ridges running northwest to southeast. The general elevation is 4,500 feet with Iron Mountain rising to 5,400 feet just outside of Subunit C. The vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush, rabbitbrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A well (one-acre area) in the west is a noticeable imprint of man. The remainder of the subunit appears to be generally natural. Two substantially unnoticeable ways are located in the subunit (one in the north and one in the center).

Solitude: The flat to gently rolling terrain in Subunit C, coupled with a lack of vegetative screening, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a user to find a secluded spot and achieve solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Winter range for wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Only one of the three subunits within this unit (2-67C) meets the minimum size criteria. This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with man's work substantially unnoticeable (except for a well in the western portion of the subunit). The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The only public comment received for this unit agreed with the proposed decision. There is no new information concerning this unit which would support a change in the decision.

Unit Number: 2-68

Unit Name: Smokey Hollow

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-68 contains 8,225 acres of public land. A road divides the unit into two subunits. One subunit contains 535 acres. This subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-68A

Description

Size: 7,690 acres.

Location: 20 miles east of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The subunit is partially bordered by two sections of State land; the remainder of the subunit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is primarily a plateau edged with rimrock and rising above a flat valley floor. On top of the plateau a few flat-topped rocky buttes are scattered in the north end of the subunit, while the remaining area is generally flat. The vegetation in the subunit is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be in a natural condition; no man-made developments were identified during the intensive inventory field work.

Solitude: The subunit provides virtually no topographic or vegetative screening that would allow visitors to find a secluded spot or screen themselves from others. This factor is accentuated by the long and narrow configuration of the subunit. The subunit does not offer opportunities for a visitor to obtain an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this subunit include viewing wildlife, hunting, and hiking. None of the opportunities for these activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit lies within a major bird migration route extending from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comments suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their location adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunites for solitude which individual units lacks.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further review.

Rationale: Subunit A is the only one of the two subunits which meets any of the minimum size criteria. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition, it does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The comments submitted do not provide any information which would support a change from the proposed decision. The response to the comment which suggests that this unit along with others in the area be identified as WSAs is located in the rationale portion for Unit 2-61.

Unit Number: 2-69

Unit Name: Devils Canyon

Description

Size: 14,015 acres.

Location: 23 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a corner of State land on the eastern side.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is dominated by a flat-top terrace. Along the west side of the unit a ridge bounds the edge of the terrace before it drops into a lower flatland to the west. The top of the terrace contains small, wide, shallow drainages with the exception of Devils Canyon, which is a narrow drainage fringed with rimrock. The vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains five miles of vehicle ways, three reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler, two and one-half miles of fence and a two-mile area of fenceline right of way. None of the developments are substantially noticeable and the unit generally appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: Unit 2-69 does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The broad open expanses with no vegetative screening do not provide a situation where a visitor could avoid the sights or sounds of others. The Devils Canyon area is not of sufficient size to provide outstanding solitude on its own.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding; however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit is located within a migration route for birds flying between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley. The rims may contain raptor nesting sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which indivudal units lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit was eliminated because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation although the area appears to be in a basically natural condition. There is no new information concerning this unit and none was provided by either of the comments for this area. The response for the comment suggesting WSA status can be found in the rationale section for Unit 2-61.

Unit Number: 2-70

Unit Name: Wilson Butte

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-70 contains 9,745 acres of public land. A road cuts through this unit creating two subunits. One subunit contains only 1,840 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and is not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-70A

Description

Size: 7,905 acres.

Location: 14 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: With the exception of a parcel of State land on the north and on the south, the unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature is Wilson Butte, a sagebrush-covered hill which lies in the south-central portion of the area. The remainder of the area consists of a relatively flat to gently rolling terrace edged with rimrock. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This area appears to be in a basically natural condition. The developments within the subunit include approximately five miles of vehicle ways and two reservoirs. Their imprint is substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The lack of topographic or vegetative screening within this subunit prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting. None of the opportunities for these activities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit is located within a major migration route for birds traveling between the Hart Mountain Area and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which individual units lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A is the only portion of this unit which meets any of the minimum size criteria. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. There is no new information concerning this subunit which would support a change from the proposed decision. The fact that this unit is adjacent to other units having similar characteristics cannot be a factor in assessing the wilderness values of this area as suggested by the comment favoring WSA status for this unit. BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook, which was developed within the legal frameworks of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act, provides for each unit to be inventoried on its own merits. Units 2-70 and 2-71 are not located adjacent to the other units mentioned in this comment.

Unit Number: 2-71

Unit Name: Goose Egg

Description

Size: 15,930 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Nine miles east of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of a small corner of State land on the south.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is dominated by a flat terrace dotted with several dry lakebeds. The topographic relief is limited to a few rolling hills and scattered rimrock. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include nine reservoirs, a corral, one mile of vehicle ways, and a 770-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. With the exception of the seeding the developments are dispersed and are substantially unnoticeable. The seeding is a noticeable imprint of man. The remainder of the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The limited topographic and vegetative screening available in the area does not provide opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the presence of others.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities within this area include hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within a primary avian flyway between Hart Mountain and the Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests that Units 2-61, 2-64, 2-65, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, and 2-71 all be identified as WSAs so that their locations adjacent to one another will enhance their primitive recreation values and provide opportunities for solitude which individual units lack.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit appears to be in a generally natural condition (with the exception of a 770-acre seeding), it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Neither of the comments for this unit provides any information which would support a change from the proposed decision. The response to the comment which favors WSA status for this unit can be found in the rationale portion for Unit 2-61. It should also be noted that Units 2-70 and 2-71 do not share a common boundary with the other units mentioned in this comment.

Unit Number: 2-72

Unit Name: Sheepshead Mountains

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-72 contains 187,615 acres of public land. In the March 1980 proposed decision, it was announced that this unit was divided by roads into 14 subunits, of which five contained less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 400 acres to 3,530 acres) and were not discussed in the narrative. After the evaluation of public comments it was determined that Unit 2-72 was actually divided by roads into 11 subunits. Three of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 1,185 to 2,315), do not meet any of the minimuim size criteria, and are not discussed in this narrative. The difference in the total number of subunits is the result of previously identified roads being reclassified as ways, resulting in several subunits being merged to form larger areas. These mergers include the combining of former small (less than 5,000 acres) Subunits A and B with Subunit C, and former Subunit E with Subunit D.

Subunit Number: 2-72C

Description

Size: The subunit contains 54,230 acres of public land, including 1,920 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The subunit also contains 640 acres of State land inholding not being acquired and 40 acres of private property.

Location: The subunit is located 15 miles northwest of Burns Junction just south of Folly Farm.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads with the exception of a small parcel of private property on the east, a section of State land on the west and some private property on the north. A dead-end road along the east boundary extends two miles into the subunit, stopping at North Heath Creek Reservoir. Another road enters the unit for a mile and dead-ends at Lake Ridge Reservoir. A third dead-end road enters the subunit near the northwest corner and extends southeast three miles along the toe of the west-facing Sheepshead escarpment. This road was not shown on the maps for the proposed decision because it was mistakenly thought that it was not a road. It has since been learned that it was constructed prior to the passage of FLPMA and meets the road definition in the Bureau's Wilderness Inventory Handbook. From the southern end of this road, four miles of temporary road extend to the southeast. The temporary road will be rehabilitated so that it will be substantially unnoticeable by the time recommendations as to whether the area is suitable for wilderness are forwarded to the President. Two other dead-end roads extend south from the northern boundary. Both of these roads are portions of the former boundaries for Subunits A and B. The portions which are retained as dead-end roads both provide access to water hauling points, while the remainder of these former boundaries are no longer used for access into this portion of the subunit and are now classified as ways. The additional acreage resulting from the merger of these subunits is listed under "Size" above.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised mostly of rolling sagebrush hills. A major ridge running north and south with a precipitous western escarpment is the dominant feature. Several small playas and numerous canyons are also found throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include approximately 16 miles of ways, 40 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, 22 small earthen reservoirs, five developed springs, six water troughs, five miles of fence, two fenced corrals, and a small borrow pit adjacent to Highway 78 on the northern boundary. With the exception of the seeding, all the developments are substantially unnoticeable due to either the minor disturbance or the screening provided by the topography. The relatively large size of the subunit also helps make the developments less noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit lacks any significant vegetative screening. While topography is diverse, the majority is comprised of gentle, wide open slopes providing little screening. However, the subunit is relatively large; the minimum distance from the perimeter to the core is three miles. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding when the unit's large size and moderate topographic screening are considered in conjunction with each other.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, photography, horseback riding, hunting (antelope and chukar), and viewing wildlife and wild horses. Although the variety of activities contributes to the recreation potential of the area, opportunities to participate in the activities is no greater than in other units in the region. With the exception of the main face of the Sheepshead Mountain, this subunit contains no significant recreational features which would be especially attractive to a visitor. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental values are off-site viewing of adjacent lands such as Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 50,300-acre wilderness study area. This decision, announced in March of 1980, did not include the additional 3,930 acres added due to the boundary changes for Subunits A and B. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72D

Description

Size: The subunit contains 35,000 acres of public land, including 1,880 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located eight miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads except for an 80-acre private parcel in the north and a State section in the southwest. Interior roads penetrate the subunit for two miles from the north boundary to Sage Hen Reservoir and for two miles from the south boundary to Hub Reservoir. The latter road is a portion of the boundary which divided former Subunits D and E. The re-evaluation of this route determined it to be a road from the south boundary to Hub Reservoir and a way for the remainder of its length. As a result, Subunits D and E were combined with the new total acreage given in "Size" above.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the terrain consists of rolling hills cut by two canyons -- Wildcat Canyon in the west and an unnamed drainage above Hub Reservoir in the center of the unit. Both drainage systems include several tributary draws with some rimrock. The only surface water in the drainages for most of the year is found at developed reservoirs and springs. An irregular south-facing escarpment ranging from 400 to 600 feet in elevation parallels the southern boundary approximately one mile north of the south boundary road. The terrain slopes gently from the escarpment to the road; there is little topographic relief in this portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Works of man in the subunit include 18 reservoirs, 15 miles of ways, four developed springs, and 14 miles of fence. The ways are noticeable from the boundary roads, but the sagebrush tends to obscure them from view from the majority of the subunit. Most of the reservoirs are small and are located in drainages near the edge of the subunit. They would not be considered obtrusive by most visitors walking through the subunit. The fence stands out as it climbs the ridge at the northwest corner of the subunit, but it is screened by sagebrush for most of its length. When viewed by a person crossing the hills and drainages, the subunit appears to be in an essentially natural condition.

Solitude: The rolling hills and the canyons and their numerous side drainages would provide an outstanding opportunity for users to avoid others in the subunit.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, viewing of wildlife and wild horses, and hunting (antelope and chukar), but they are not outstanding. There is no particularly unusual feature, or obvious destination point in the subunit. Persons could hike the drainages or divides, but opportunities for hiking and other activities do not stand above others of their kind in other areas.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources have been found within the subunit. The unit also offers off-site views of adjacent units.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision, announced in March 1980, was to eliminate both Subunits D and E. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72F

Description

Size: 20,330 acres.

Location: Five miles south of Folly Farm and 22 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by BLM roads and two sections of State land on the east and south, and by private land, State land, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists primarily of one major ridgeline running from north to south through the center of the subunit. This ridgeline drops sharply to the east, where the topography is generally flat with an intermittent lakebed in the north and some small ridges and buttes in the south. The west side of the subunit contains gently rolling hills and scattered rock outcroppings; the terrain slopes gently to the west boundary. There are many small intermittent drainages which provide additional topographic diversity to this subunit. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass, with widely scattered juniper on the west side.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs, one mile of fence, one borrow pit adjacent to the county road, and about five miles of vehicle ways. In general, these developments are dispersed, or are adjacent to the boundary roads and are not substantially noticeable. The only exceptions are the borrow pit and about two miles of way which follow a drainage through the north end of the ridgeline. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the ridgeline and the diversity provided by the smaller drainages, the subunit possesses sufficient topographic screening to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude although it has virtually no vegetative screening. Even though broad vistas from higher points provide views of much of the subunit, there is sufficient topographic relief to allow a visitor to screen himself from the presence of others and find a secluded spot.

Recreation: The area provides opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting. None of the opportunities for any of these activities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit offers scenic views of areas outside the subunit, including the Sheepshead Mountains to the east, the nothern end of the Steens Mountain on the west, and adjacent subunits to the south.

Proposed Decision: The decision published in the March 1980 report was to eliminate the subunit from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72G

Description

Size: 10,035 acres.

Location: 12 miles south of Folly Farm and 22 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a State section on the east and west and a small parcel of private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of a dominant ridgeline running from north to south, which drops off abruptly to flat land and intermittent lakes on the east, and slopes gradually to the west with gently rolling hills and very small drainages. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, rabbitbrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains four reservoirs, one well, and about two miles of fence. None of these developments are substantially noticeable and the area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: Much of this subunit is flat to gently rolling with little opportunity for an individual to find a secluded spot. The dominant ridge which runs through the area is quite steep, has little diversity (i.e., no major canyons), and provides views of most of the subunit. These factors, combined with the lack of vegetative screening, reduce the opportunities for solitude within this subunit to less than outstanding.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and viewing scenery. The opportunites for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area offers views of the surrounding landscape outside the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72H

Description

Size: 11,410 acres.

Location: 16 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 26 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land; on the east by private land, State land, and a BLM road; on the south by a BLM road and adjacent public land; and on the west by State land, private land, and a county road. A dead-end road to a watering trough enters the unit for about one mile on the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is dominated by a large ridge running through the center of the area from north to south. To the west of the ridge, gently rolling hills and small ridges are typical as the land slopes to the west boundary. The east slope of the ridge is quite steep, and east of the ridge are several intermittent lakes with a few small rimrock-edged buttes along the east boundary. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit contains two substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seedings along the west side of the area. In total, these seedings comprise approximately 1,500 acres. In addition, the area contains two reservoirs, several stock tanks along the south boundary road, about three miles of fence, and approximately ten miles of vehicle ways. In general, these developments are not substantially noticeable (with the possible exception of portions of the vehicle ways from higher points), and most of the area appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains little or no vegetative screening, and the topography within the area, although somewhat diverse, is generally open, providing few secluded areas. Most of the area is visible from the ridgeline in the center of the subunit. Because of the lack of sufficient topographic or vegetative screening, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and viewing scenery. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: Scenery outside the unit (including the Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits) can be viewed from the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72I

Description

Size: 38,855 acres of public land; inholdings of 1,280 acres of State land.

Location: 12 miles south of Folly Farm and 16 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public lands with the exception of two parcels of private land on the south, two sections of State land on the west and a section of State land at the end of a dead-end road entering the subunit from the east side.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of topographic features, including a large playa along the south boundary, many steep ridgelines scattered throughout the subunit, several small, flat-topped buttes, and one large, flat-topped butte (Table Mountain) in the north central portion. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains about 14 reservoirs, three miles of fence, and approximately 12 miles of vehicle ways. With the exception of a group of reservoirs along the east boundary, and portions of the ways, the developments are not substantially noticeable. This is primarily due to their dispersement and topographic screening. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Although the area lacks vegetative screening, its size and the diversity of topography combine to create many areas where an individual could find a secluded spot. This subunit has outstanding opportunties for solitude.

Recreation: This area offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, (antelope and chukar), horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, and viewing wildlife. The variety of the topography enhances the recreation potential, but opportunities are not outstanding. There are no unique natural features or recreational attractions which would draw visitors to this particular area.

Supplemental Values: Several springs exist within and around the playa lakebed along the south boundary. This area, primarily because of the springs and the meadows they support, provide habitat for sage grouse and winter range for deer. In addition, cultural resources of various types were observed within the subunit. This area also provides points where offsite scenery can be viewed, including the Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 38,855-acre wilderness study area. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72J

Description

Size: 7,755 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 21 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 27 miles west of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public lands.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a large ridgeline and peak near the west side of the area with small ridgelines occurring along the sloping west side. The steep east side of the ridge drops sharply into a relatively flat portion of the subunit. The east side contains widely scattered buttes. The vegetation is mostly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: With the exception of scattered stock water tanks on the west and north boundaries, no man-made developments are located in this subunit. The area appears to be in a natural condition.

Solitude: Although the subunit has a general lack of vegetative screening, the topographic screening provided within the subunit offers areas where an individual could escape the presence of others within the subunit.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic views of Steens Mountain and adjacent subunits.

Proposed Decision: The decision published in March 1980 was to eliminate the subunit from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-72N

Description

Size: 5,310 acres.

Location: 26 miles southwest of Folly Farm and 29 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a BLM road in the north, a BLM road and a State section on the east, a BLM road and private land on the south, and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature in the subunit is a ridgeline which runs from north to south along the east boundary. The remainder of the area is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains approximately five miles of vehicle ways, three miles of fenceline, a borrow pit, and about 1,800 acres of a subtantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding. All of these developments occur in the flat land on the west side of the subunit. Because of the size of the seeding (in relation to the size of the subunit) and the presence of the other developments, this area does not appear to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The subunit lacks topographic or vegetative screening and, with its relatively small size, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, and viewing wildlife. These opportunities are not outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: The subunit offers scenic views of the Steens Mountain and surrounding subunits.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Approximately seventy-six comments were received. Comments on this unit were sent to two district offices and the State Office, copies of some comments were sent to two or three of those offices, and some comments pertaining to this unit did not refer to the unit by name or number. Two comments support the proposed decision without qualification. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review without referring to the WSA proposals. One comment discusses the supplemental values of Subunit 2-72I but makes no reference to the proposed decision. One comment provides study phase information about Subunit 2-72I, but says nothing pertinent to the inventory decision. One comment opposes the proposed decision to designate WSAs in Subunits 2-72C and 2-72I, seven oppose the WSA for Subunit 2-72C and six oppose the proposed WSA in Subunit 2-72I. One comment provides information about possible roads in Subunit 2-72I but does not refer to the proposed decision. Nearly all of these comments identify features which they state detract from the naturalness of one or both of the subunits. Fences, roads, ways, reservoirs and private lands within the subunits are identified as substantially noticeable instrusions. Several comments argue that the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding because of a lack of adequate vegetative screening, because of traffic on boundary roads or because of the need for access to inlying State and private lands. The lack of shade and water is cited as a reason for evaluating the opportunities for recreation as less than outstanding. One comment suggests that WSAs are not needed because there are so few people who are able or want to use them. Another argues in favor of vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use. Over fifty comments are in favor of a WSA in this area but are dissatisfied with the proposed decision. Most of them either directly or by implication support the decision to identify Subunits 2-72C and 2-72I as WSAs. However, except for the two comments mentioned earlier, these comments suggest that some or all of the other subunits of 2-72 be WSAs and that all or portions of Unit 2-72 be combined with Unit 3-114. The general idea, found in most of these comments, is that there should be one large WSA for the Sheepshead Mountains, covering over 200,000 acres. Most of these comments suggest that the decision be changed. Several argue that the boundary roads between subunits and between Units 2-72 and 3-114 are actually ways and should be reclassified. One comment provides detailed information about roads, including the assertion that many miles of ways within the unit were reconstructed in violation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Interim Management Policy Guidelines for BLM lands under wilderness review. This comment goes on to suggest that if the wrongly identified roads are reclassified as ways, there will be an inventory unit of approximately 240,000 acres. Then, detailed arguments are presented of the ways in which the size and the diversity of both terrain and vegetation in this larger unit would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and many forms of primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Designate a 54,190-acre wilderness study area in Subunit C, a 35,000-acre wilderness study area in Subunit D, a 20,330-acre wilderness study area in Subunit F, a 38,855-acre wilderness study area in Subunit I, and a 7,755-acre wilderness study area in Subunit J. Eliminate 40 acres of Subunit C and all of Subunits G, H, and N because they do not possess wilderness characteristics and eliminate Subunits K, L, and M because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: Subunits C, D, F, I, and J are identified as wilderness study areas because they appear to be substantially free of the works of man and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Subunits K, L, and M are eliminated from further wilderness review because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for study areas. Subunit N is eliminated primarily because the imprints of man within this subunit are substantially noticeable. Subunits G and H are eliminated because they do not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or recreation. Routes forming boundaries of subunits identified in the proposed decision have been re-examined; and it has been determined that the routes between former Subunits D and E, and between former Subunits A and B are not roads. Former Subunit E is now part of Subunit D, and former Subunits A and B are now merged with Subunit C. The field examination has confirmed that all other roads identified in the proposed decision report and map do meet the road definition found in the Bureau's Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Some comments noted that part of the boundary between Units 2-72 and 3-114 runs through a playa that sometimes contains water; and the commentors said that this should not be considered a road. Many roads across public land are impassable during part of the year because of snow or muddy conditions. However, they meet the road definition in that portions of them have been constructed and maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use. That is the case here. Sections on both sides of the playa have been maintained. The section across the playa and an adjoining section across gentle terrain to the south have not been maintained because there is no need for it. However, they are integral parts of the entire route; and they are passable and are used in the same manner as the sections on either side. The entire route is considered a road. A comment said that the route from West Table Mountain Reservoir to south of Table Mountain Well (along the boundary between Subunits G and I) is a road. We do not feel that this route qualifies as a road because it is not maintained to ensure relatively regular and continuous use is very infrequently used, and appears to be usable only from an east to west direction. Several comments said that several routes in the Sheepsheads were ways prior to the passage of FLPMA in 1976 but were subsequently maintained, in violation of the requirement in FLPMA to preserve the potential wilderness suitability of lands under wilderness review. BLM district employees who worked in the area before 1976 were interviewed to verify the condition of the routes in question. They stated that the roads were constructed and maintained before 1976. The roads were re-examined after the close of the public comment period; and in several locations old berms with sagebrush over two feet high were found outside the berms created by the post-FLPMA maintenance. This substantiates that the roads had been improved before the passage of FLPMA. Photos of the old berms are filed in the official unit case file in the Burns District Office. Many comments stated that all of the subunits in the Sheepshead Mountains provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. We agree that Subunits C, D, F, I, and J provide outstanding opportunities for solitude; but we do not believe any of the subunits provide outstanding opportunities for recreation. Portions of all subunits provide vistas of distant mountains and playas; wild horses can be viewed during some parts of the year; and antelope and other wildlife species can be seen in the area. Visitors can also hike, ride horses, view wildflowers during parts of the year, and take photos. However, most of these opportunities are also available in other units in the region. We do not believe the opportunities here are outstanding among others of their kind. The terrain does not contain features which would draw users and provide a truly outstanding recreation experience. Re-evaluation of Subunits G, H, and N confirms that these three subunits do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. Like other areas within the Sheepshead Unit, these subunits do not contain vegetation that would screen visitors from other users. Unlike the proposed WSAs, however, Subunits G, H, and N lack the topographic diversity and screening necessary to provide a truly outstanding experience of solitude and the opportunity for a visitor to find a secluded spot. These three subunits do not provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive recreation experience nor do they possess any unique or unusual natural features or attractions which would be attractive to visitors or provide any outstanding recreational activity. Several comments stated that reservoirs, fences, and ways in Subunits C and I are substantially noticeable, and that the subunits do not appear to be substantially free of the works of man. After re-evaluating the subunits, we continue to believe that the rolling terrain and sagebrush would screen the man-made features to the extent that they would not appear to be substantially noticeable to a person walking or riding a horse through the area. Two comments objected to "designating private property in Subunit C as wilderness study area". See the general summary of comments in the introduction of this report for our response to these comments. The comments questioning the need for WSAs, favoring continued vehicle access, and arguing for continued unrestricted resource management and multiple use are addressing issues which are not a part of the inventory but which will be evaluated during the study phase of the process.

Unit Number: 2-73

Unit Name: Winter Range

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-73 contains 71,750 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide the area into eight subunits. Two of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 865 to 1,125 acres. These two subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 2-73A

Description

Size: 21,395 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 25 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small portion of private land on the north.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of topographic features. The southwest corner contains a portion of the Alvord Desert Sand Dunes east of the desert playa. The northern portion of the area contains a small playa and Mickey Hot Springs. Through the center of the subunit a ridgeline divides the flat desert to the west from the rolling hills to the east. This ridgeline and the associated hills are disected by numerous small intermittent streams which create a diverse landscape. The vegetation within the subunit is predominantly sagebrush and grass; however, the dune area on the southwest contains a wide variety of desert species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This area contains approximately three miles of vehicle way, one well with a windmill and five reservoirs all located adjacent to the boundary. These developments are not substantially noticeable and the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit contains little or no vegetative screening. However, the size of the subunit combined with the diversity of the topography (especially on the east side) creates numerous areas where an individual can find outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. Of these activities, the best opportunities within the area are for hiking; however, none of these activities appear to be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes which occur along the southwest side of the subunit provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals and may be of scientific value. This subunit also provides scenic views of the Alvord Desert, Pueblo Mountains, Steens Mountain, and the south end of the Sheepshead Mountains.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 21,395-acre wilderness study area. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-73B

Description

Size: 5,505 acres of public land; an inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 28 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit B is basically an extension of the rolling terrain found on the east side of Subunit A. However, the hills in this area are generally less pronounced as the land flattens out along the east boundary. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, a well, and about two miles of vehicle ways. These developments are located near the road boundaries and are not substantially noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Because of the lack of vegetative screening and the general lack of topographic diversity, combined with the relatively small size of the area, the subunit would not provide a visitor with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, with minimal opportunities for hunting and viewing wildlife. None of these activities appear to be outstanding within this subunit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-73E

Description

Size: 5,845 acres.

Location: 23 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: With the exception of a State section on the north, the subunit is bounded by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically flat to gently rolling on the east with small hills divided by intermittent stream drainages on the west. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five reservoirs and about two miles of vehicle ways. These developments are located near the subunit's boundaries and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Due to the general lack of topographic or vegetative screening, combined with the relatively small size of the subunit, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit E offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife and horseback riding. None of these opportunities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-73F

Description

Size: 11,215 acres.

Location: 21 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a portion of State land on the south.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Although the subunit contains several areas of gently rolling hills and a small area of sand dunes, there are no dominant physical features within the area. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains one reservoir near the east boundary, and it is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The relatively flat topography and low growing vegetation would not screen users from each other. Because of the lack of screening and the subunit's relatively small size, it would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding; however, none of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-73G

Description

Size: 11,160 acres.

Location: 14 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: With the exception of State parcels on the northeast and west, the unit is bounded entirely by BLM roads and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is primarily flat in the south and gently rolling in the north. A small valley runs east-west through the center of the area providing the north boundary for the flat terrain to the south. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately ten reservoirs. In general, these reservoirs are located near the perimeter of the subunit and are not substantially noticeable. The area appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit generally lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening for an individual to find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and horseback riding. None of these activities are outstanding within this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-73H

Description

Size: 14,640 acres of public land; one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 20 miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a corner of State land on the east and two parcels of private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of steep-sloped ridges rising to flat-topped buttes. The area is dissected by numerous intermittent streams. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a well, five reservoirs, approximately two miles of vehicle ways, and one mile of fence. These developments are generally located near the perimeter of the subunit and are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Despite the lack of vegetative screening available within the subunit, the topographic diversity creates pockets where a visitor could obtain a feeling of isolation. This subunit appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit H offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and viewing wildlife. Of these activities, there are probably more opportunities for hiking than for the others. However, none of these opportunities is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit offers off-site scenic views of the south end of the Sheepshead Mountains to the north and Steens Mountain to the west.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,640-acre wilderness study area.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty-two comments were received. Seventeen concur with all or part of the proposed decision. Two of the seventeen refer only to Subunit 2-73A. One of them argues that the road between Subunits 2-73A and 2-73H is actually a way and that the two subunits should be combined in one WSA. Another argues that all the other subunits should be WSAs. One suggests that Subunits 2-73B and 2-73E should be WSAs because they will offer outstanding opportunities for solitude as a result of proximity to adjacent WSAs and proposed WSAs. Another suggests combining Subunits B, E, F and G with A and H to form a large unit with opportunities for solitude. These suggestions are not accompanied by any information to support the implication that subunit boundaries ought to be re-evaluated. Thirteen comments are opposed to one or both of the proposed WSAs. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no reference to the WSA proposals. One comment provides only study phase information which is not pertinent to the inventory decision. Of the thirteen comments, one is opposed to both WSAs, seven are opposed to Subunit 2-73A and six are opposed to Subunit 2-73H. Most of them suggest that naturalness is lacking because of substantially noticeable water developments, fences, roads or parcels of non-federal land. One comment argues that the WSAs are not needed because few people want or are able to use wilderness areas, and one favors vehicle access, unrestricted management and multiple use over potential use of the area as wilderness.

Final Decision: Designate Subunit A (21,395 acres) and Subunit H (14,640 acres) as wilderness study areas. Eliminate the remaining subunits because they do not have wilderness characteristics or because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: Subunits A and H are in an essentially natural condition. The topographic diversity in the two subunits contributes to the opportunities for solitude. The larger subunits which are being eliminated from wilderness review do not have sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. None of the subunits within 2-73, including the areas designated as WSAs, offer outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation. Although several comments suggest combining various subunits, re-evaluation of the roads which cross this unit confirms that these are roads; and, therefore, it is not possible to combine these subunits. We disagree with those submitting comments which state that all of these subunits have outstanding opportunities for solitude and that Subunits A and H (the WSAs) offer outstanding recreational opportunities. The non-WSA subunits do not have sufficient topographic or vegetative screening (the vegetative screening is lacking in the WSAs as well) to provide outstanding solitude. Subunits A and H do possess opportunities for recreation but they are relatively few in number and low in quality. One comment suggests that the non-WSA subunits be designated WSAs because of their proximity to adjacent WSAs (2-73A and B, and 2-74F). This is not an alternative available during the inventory process. Each subunit must be evaluated on its own merit regardless of the characteristics of adjacent areas. Most of the comments opposing WSA designation refer to the evaluation of the naturalness of Subunits A and H. Re-evaluation of these subunits confirms that the man-made developments are generally small, well-screened, and sufficiently dispersed throughout the subunits so as to be substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. Comments referring to the potential visitor use of the areas, the inclusion of non-public land, vehicle access, and the need for continued multiple use management are not concerns which can be dealt with during the inventory. However, they will be addressed during the study phase. Two comments refer to private land within the boundaries of the WSAs. The only private land in this general area is located outside the WSA boundaries along the Mickey Hot Springs Road. These lands are not affected by the study area designations.

Unit Number: 2-74

Unit Name: Alvord Desert

Subunit Number: 2-74F

Subunit 2-74F was designated a wilderness study area on March 27, 1980. With the final decision announced in this report, lands formerly included in Unit 3-119 are now included in Wilderness Study Area 2-74F. The study area originally contained 160,890 acres. Unit 3-119 contained 63,120 acres, and all but 40 acres in a Federal Aviation Administration communications site are now included in Study Area 2-74F. The study area now contains 223,970 acres.

Unit 3-119 was located on the east side of Study Area 2-74F. The former boundary between 3-119 and 2-74F is a section of the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road. Portions of the former boundary may have been constructed, but they bear no evidence of having been maintained to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. The route does not meet the road definition in BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook. When the proposed intensive inventory decision for Unit 3-119 was issued in March 1980, it appeared it might be necessary to consider the route an inventory unit boundary because of the legislation which authorized construction of the "road." It has since been determined that this would not be the case. Therefore, Subunit 2-74F and former Unit 3-119 are parts of the same roadless area.

The March 1980 proposed decision for former Unit 3-119 was that it be eliminated from further wilderness review because, when considered by itself, it was not believed to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. However, the original Unit 2-74F offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, and those opportunities are enhanced with the addition of the lands formerly in Unit 3-119. Except for the 40-acre communication site, the lands in 3-119 also are in an essentially natural condition. They, therefore, meet the criteria for designation as a wilderness study area.

The new addition to the Alvord Desert Wilderness Study Area is described below.

Description

Size: Unit 3-119 contained 63,120 acres of public land including a 2,480 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. Thirteen parcels of private inholdings contain 1.120 acres. One 40-acre parcel on the east boundary is administered by the Federal Aviation Administration as a communications site. It is not included in the study area.

Location: Twelve miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The area is bounded on the north by private property, to the east by a paved state highway, to the south by a county road, to the southwest by private property and a BLM road, and to the west by public lands in Study Area 2-74F. A three-mile deadend road extends into the southwest corner of the area.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists of large sagebrush and saltbush flats with little variation in topography. There are some shallow, rolling rises in the southern portion. There are several small playas in the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Both the former Unit 3-119 and the now-enlarged Study Area 2-74F meet the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The majority of former Unit 3-119 is in an essentially natural condition. Ten miles of ways cut through the corners of the area. The ways are substantially unnoticeable because of the flat terrain and screening of the sagebrush. A small, screened, and substantially unnoticeable borrow pit exists in the southeast corner. The north half of the area was used as a bombing and artillery range during World War II. Although this has not affected the apparent naturalness, an informed visitor may find evidence of such use or traces of old ordnance. The only substantially noticeable intrusion is the airstrip and communication facility on the 40-acre Federal Aviation Administration site inside the east boundary.

Solitude: The proposed decision for former Unit 3-119 was that it be eliminated from further wilderness review because it lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The area's flat terrain and lack of vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude. However, when the area is considered in conjunction with the rest of Study Area 2-74F, the study area's large size compensates for the lack of topographic and vegetative screening. The study area, as a whole, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The land in former Unit 3-119 does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. It offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and sightseeing. Because of the lack of diversity in the unit, hiking and horseback riding opportunities are not outstanding. The only attractions for sight seeing are mountain ranges outside the unit. However, other portions of Study Area 2-74F offer outstanding recreation opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Archeological sites may be located around the playas.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision for former Unit 3-119 was to eliminate it from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter suggests that the size of the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude because one could experience solitude and isolation in an area which does not have topographic or vegetative screening.

Final Decision: Combine Units 3-119 and Subunit 2-74F. Include 63,080 acres formerly in Unit 3-119 in Study Area 2-74F. Eliminate 40 acres in former Unit 3-119 from further review because they contain a Federal Aviation Administration airstrip and communications facility.

Rationale: The lands in former Unit 3-119 are part of the same roadless area as Subunit 2-74F. Most of the lands in 2-74F were included in a study area designated in March 1980. When considered in conjunction with the lands in Study Area 2-74F, the majority of the lands in former Unit 3-119 also have wilderness characteristics.

Unit Number: 2-75

Unit Name: Black Point

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-75 contains 51,300 acres of public land. Roads divide the unit into nine subunits. Seven of these subunits are less than 5,000 acres (ranging from 180 to 3,515 acres) do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not discussed.

Subunit Number: 2-75A

Description

Size: 15,230 acres of public land; 320 acres in an inholding of State land and 320 acres in a private inholding.

Location: Adjacent to and directly east of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by a powerline access road and adjacent public land; on the east by a BLM road with adjacent public land; on the south by private land; and on the west by Fields, private land, a county road, and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of the flat bottom land of the southern end of the Alvord Basin. In the northern portion of the subunit stabilized sand dunes provide minor topographic relief. The remainder of the subunit is essentially flat. Trout Creek, an intermittent stream, flows through the center of the subunit. The dunes contain a variety of plant species. Sagebrush and salt desert shrub species predominate throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains 15 miles of vehicle ways, one well, five miles of powerline right of way and associated access way, a power substation, an airstrip, a landfill, and about six miles of irrigation ditches. Most of these developments occur in the eastern half of the subunit, but their cumulative impact is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The lack of topographic or vegetative screening within this area prevents the subunit from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and viewing wildlife, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The sand dunes contain a variety of plants and animals. This diversity is of environmental and educational interest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-75C

Description

Size: 28,320 acres of public land; two inholdings of State land containing 960 acres.

Location: Six miles east of Fields.

Boundaries: Subunit 2-75C is bounded on the north by a powerline access road and adjacent public land, and on the remaining sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small corner of State land on the west and a large portion of private land on the southwest. A small adjustment in the boundary on the west side was made (enlarging the subunit by approximately 610 acres) because a portion of the original boundary was determined not to be a road.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains a variety of physical features. The subunit is predominantly a series of sloping ridges in a desert plateau. The northern portion rises abruptly above the adjacent Alvord Basin to the west. The central portion contains several small playas and is flat to gently rolling as are the valley areas between the ridges. In the southwestern portion the ridges are more pronounced as the land drops off into the Trout Creek drainage. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be relatively free of the imprint of man. The area contains 14 miles of vehicle ways, one reservoir, three wildlife guzzlers, and a portion of the Flagstaff seeding. These developments are dispersed throughout the subunit and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography which comprises the majority of this subunit, the broad sloping nature of the ridges, and the low vegetative cover do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Visitors to this area would not have substantial opportunities to screen themselves from the presence of others.

Recreation: This subunit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rockhounding, hunting, and viewing wildlife. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one suggests that the sand dune area in the northern part of Subunit 2-75A be a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunits A and C are the only portions of this unit to meet any of the minimum size criteria. Subunit C contains relatively few man-made developments and appears to be in a generally natural condition while Subunit A contains many developments and man's imprint is substantially noticeable. Neither of these subunits offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. The comments submitted for this unit offer no new information which would support a change from the proposed decision. With respect to the comment recommending further study for the sand dune area of 2-75A, the effect of eliminating the unnatural portions of the subunit would not provide an area with outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Although much of this subunit contains sandy soils, only a small portion of the area is covered with sand dunes. In addition, these dunes are generally less than 20 feet in height, are covered with low-growing vegetation, and do not provide sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to offer outstanding solitude. The remainder of the subunit is basically flat with very low vegetative cover. No outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation are provided anywhere in the subunit.

Unit Number: 2-77

Unit Name: Mahogany Ridge

Revision of Subunit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-77 contains 42,888 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into eight subunits. Six of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from eight acres to 380 acres. These six subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below. When the proposed decision was announced in March 1980, it was thought that Subunit F was separated from Subunit B by a dead-end road and 520 acres of private land. However, the 520 acre parcel actually is public land. Therefore, the 3,070 acres formerly in Subunit F and the 520-acre parcel formerly mapped as private land are now included in Subunit B.

Subunit Number: 2-77A

Description

Size: 14,340 acres of public land; with a 640-acre inholding of State land.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by a county road and private land and on the remaining sides by BLM roads and adjacent public land with the exception of a small section of private land in the southeast.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit contains somewhat varied terrain. The west half is flat to gently rolling, while the east half is dominated by two flat-topped mesas divided by Stoney Creek. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass, with several kinds of riparian plants growing near Table Mountain Spring.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The east half contains four spring developments, four reservoirs and about two miles of fence. These developments are dispersed and are not substantially noticeable imprints of man. However, approximately 4,000 acres on the west side are significantly impacted by the works of man, including five miles of vehicle ways, five miles of powerline, a well, a developed spring, a reservoir, and a gravel pit. The concentration of developments in this area makes this portion of the subunit appear to be in a generally unnatural condition. A 3,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding is also located within the subunit but is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The area not impacted by the man-made developments does not offer outstanding opportunites for a visitor to achieve solitude. The general lack of topographic or vegetative screening available on the mesas does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, and rockhounding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-77B

Description

Size: 27,370 acres of public land, 400 acres of State inholdings, and 1,560 acres of private inholdings. The subunit is 3,590 acres larger than indicated in the March 1980 report because a map error has been corrected. See the "Revision of Subunit Boundaries" section on the previous page for an explanation of the map correction.

Location: 18 miles southeast of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a mixture of private land and BLM roads with adjacent public land. One section of State land forms a part of the eastern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of three flat topped ridges which are deeply dissected by four major drainages. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush on the ridge tops. Riparian vegetation in the drainages includes aspen, alder, and willow. Scattered groves of aspen and mountain mahogany grow throughout much of this area; a few juniper grow below Mahogany Ridge. The subunit also contains snowberry and serviceberry.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit contains sixteen reservoirs, eight developed springs, six miles of vehicle ways, five miles of interior fenceline, and a 350-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. However, the area appears to be in a basically natural condition. Because the developments are dispersed, screened, or overgrown (the seeding), they are not substantially noticeable in the subunit as a whole.

Solitude: The flat-topped ridges with low vegetative cover do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, the major valleys contain many drainages along the sides of the canyon walls, some of which contain aspen. These areas, along with the public land portions of the major drainages, provide sufficient topographic, and in some cases, vegetative screening to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Subunit B offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, photography, fishing, sightseeing, viewing wildlife and backpacking. These recreational opportunities are outstanding because of the quality of the hunting, fishing, and sightseeing activities and the variety of activities available.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources has been found within the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 23,780-acre wilderness study area.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-seven comments were received. Fourteen concur with all or part of the proposed decision. One of the fourteen disagrees with the evalution in the proposed decision that the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. One suggests that Subunit 2-77A be a WSA in combination with Subunits 2-77B, 2-78E and F and 2-80A. Another suggests

WSA status for 2-77D. None of these comments provides new information or counter-arguments in support of the various suggestions. One comment suggests that BLM ignore some roads and consider combining unspecified parts of Unit 2-77 with adjacent WSAs. One comment supports the decision to eliminate parts of the unit from further wilderness review but makes no reference to the WSA proposal. One comment provides information about the locations of fences, water developments, inlying parcels of non-federal land and vegetation but does not refer to the proposed decision. Ten comments are opposed to the proposed decision to identify a WSA. Most of them argue that water developments, seedings, cabins, fences, the presence of parcels of private land within the unit, or some combination of these factors makes the subunit not essentially natural. One comment argues that a WSA is not needed because there are so few people who want or are able to use wilderness. Another favors continued vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use over potential use of the area as wilderness.

Final Decision: Designate a 27,370-acre wilderness study area in Subunit 2-77B; eliminate Subunit 2-77A and all other subunits because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: Subunits A and B are the only subunits which meet any of the minimum size criteria. Subunit A, with the exception of 4,000 acres on the west side of the subunit, appears to be in a basically natural condition. However, the subunit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In response to the comment which suggests that Subunit 2-77A be a WSA in combination with other subunits, this is not possible because roads separate these subunits. The BLM was mandated to inventory roadless areas and existing roads cannot be "ignored" as another comment suggests. Each area must be evaluated on its own merits without considering outside influences (positive or negative). One comment recommends WSA status for Subunit 2-77D. This area contains only 290 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. Subunit 2-77B appears to be in a basically natural condition and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The includes the 23,780 acres in Subunit B at the time of the March 1980 proposed decision as well as the 3,590 acres added to Subunit B because of the map correction described above in the "Revision of Subunit Boundaries" section. Comments which discussed specific developments including reservoirs, springs, fences, etc., were verified using office information and field investigation. In some cases, revisions were made in the "Naturalness" section above to reflect the new information. However, the original conclusion that the subunit is basically natural was reaffirmed. The developments are dispersed throughout the subunit, are adequately screened by the topography and/or vegetation in many cases, or are overgrown (the seeding). An average visitor to the area would feel that the subunit was basically natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. After re-evaluation, it is felt that the subunit does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude (as one comment suggested). There is sufficient topographic relief, primarily the drainages along the canyon walls, coupled with vegetative screening in many areas to provide secluded spots. Subunit B also provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation as discussed under the "Recreation" section above. The comments which discuss the presence of large inholdings of private land, question the need for more wilderness, and favor continued vehicle access and unrestricted resource management and multiple use raise valid issues which will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review process. However, these issues cannot be assessed in the inventory phase.

Unit Number: 2-78

Unit Name: Red Mountain

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-78 contains 31,610 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into six subunits. Three of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from 110 acres to 4,400 acres. These three subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below. Two of the three remaining subunits are contiguous with the Winnemucca District's Disaster Peak Unit NV-020-859

Subunit Number: 2-78D/3-153/NV-020-859

Subunit D contains 2,720 acres of public land in the Burns District. The subunit is adjacent to NV-020-859 of the Winnemucca District (9,700 acres) which, in turn, is adjacent to Vale District's Unit 3-153 (13,422 acres). The description and proposed decision for this subunit are contained in the narrative for 3-153.

Subunit Number: 2-78E/NV-020-859J

Description

Size: Subunit E contains 5,460 acres and is contiguous with Inventory Subunit NV-020-859J in the Winnemucca District. The Nevada portion contains 540 acres.

Location: 15 miles east of Denio in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by BLM roads and small parcels of State and private land on the north; BLM roads and adjacent public land on the east and south, and private land, a small portion of State land and a road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit lies within a portion of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography consists of rounded hillsides with several intermittent streams running across the area to the southwest. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout the area with some aspen occurring in the higher elevations along the east boundary.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit E/859J contains one reservoir, five developed springs, one mile of vehicle way, and about three miles of fenceline. These developments are substantially unnoticeable and the area appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: This subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of vegetative screening and the broad open expanses are not conducive to finding a secluded spot. In addition, the portion of the subunit that is contiguous with Nevada narrows to less than one quarter mile before crossing the State line, with the Nevada portion being less than one mile wide at its widest point.

Recreation: The recreational activities offered within this area are primarily hiking and hunting, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-78F

Description

Size: 18,470 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 320 acres of State land and 80 acres of private land.

Location: Six miles northeast of Denio.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by a road and private land on the north and east; private land, State land, and a road on the south, and roads on the west.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit is located on the southwest edge of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography includes the flat lowlands of the Pueblo Slough area in the west, foothills in the central portion, and Red Mountain in the east. The area contains several intermittent streams which flow to the west and dissect the topography. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass throughout most of the subunit, with salt desert shrub species occurring in the western lowlands.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Along the north boundary a dead-end road, one reservoir, a buried pipeline, a ditch and a graded area adjacent to the ditch intrude one mile into the subunit and have substantial impacts on approximately 300 acres. The remainder of the subunit contains six reservoirs, four spring developments, ten miles of fenceline, 11 miles of vehicle ways, one mile of ditch and an overgrown crested wheatgrass seeding. These developments are dispersed and well screened and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Although the subunit does not contain a substantial amount of vegetative screening, it does possess topographic diversity. This diversity is characteristic of much of the subunit (especially the central and eastern portions) and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. These opportunties, however, do not include the northwest corner of the subunit. In this portion, the one-mile intrusion mentioned under "Naturalness" above, ends less than one-eighth mile from another dead-end road which enters the subunit from the west. This near intersection essentially cuts off a 3,440-acre portion of the northwest corner; it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: With its diverse terrain, the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and sightseeing (on and off-site). The 3,440 acre-area in the northwest corner does not provide outstanding opportunities for any of these activities.

Supplemental Values: The subunit possesses evidence of cultural resources and off-site scenic values of the surrounding area (Pueblo Mountains, Steens Mountain and mountainous terrain in Nevada).

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,730-acre wilderness study area; eliminate 3,740 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty comments were received. Seven concur with the proposed decision to identify Subunit 2-78F as a WSA. Two of the seven suggest that Subunit 2-78E also be a WSA; one of them suggesting that it be combined with Subunits 2-77A and B and 2-80A. One comment discusses the supplemental values of 2-78F but does not refer to the proposed decision. One comment suggests ignoring roads and combining unspecified parts of the unit with adjacent WSAs. Ten comments oppose all or parts of the proposed decision. Eight of them refer only to Subnit 2-78F and most of them argue that it is not natural because of water developments, ways, fences, roads, seedings, an irrigation ditch, inlying parcels of private land or some combination of these factors. One of the eight provides information about the locations of possible roads. One comment is opposed to Subunit 2-78D being identified as a WSA. One comment provides information about water developments, ways, fences and a cabin but makes no specific reference to the proposed decision. One comment argues for continued vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use in favor of potential wilderness use.

Final Decision: Designate a 14,730-acre wilderness study area in Subunit 2-78F; eliminate 3,740 acres in 2-78F, and eliminate all other subunits except 2-78D (the description and final decision for this subunit are contained in the narrative for 3-153) because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: Subunits D, E, and F are the only subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria. Subunit 2-78E is basically natural but does not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. This latter fact was re-evaluated after a public comment suggested that the area did provide outstanding opportunities. In reference to the comments which suggest combining subunits and/or adjacent WSAs, this is not possible because roads separate these areas and BLM was mandated to inventory roadless areas. Also, each area must be evaluated on its own merits without considering outside influences (positive or negative). Subunit 2-78F is generally natural (after the deletion of 300 acres heavily impacted by the works of man). Information provided by the public regarding the quantity and type of developments present in the subunit was checked using office information and field verification. Totals were revised in some cases and the corrected figures are listed under the "Naturalness" section above. Many of the developments mentioned in the public comments and in the "Naturalness" section are not in the WSA because they are in the 3,740 acres that have been eliminated from further wilderness review. The developments remaining within the WSA boundary are dispersed and screened by the topography so that they do not appear to be substantially noticeable to the average visitor. Comments stated that the private land acreage total is higher than 80 acres. The only private land lying within the WSA is at Cherry Spring (80 acres). Private land near Holloway Reservoir (640 acres), near Red Mountain Spring (40 acres), and all along Cottonwood Creek form portions of the boundary of the WSA and are not included as part of the WSA.

Unit Number: 2-80/NV-020-609

Unit Name: Sand Hills/Maggie Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-80 is contiguous with the Winnemucca District's Maggie Creek Unit (NV-020-609). Together these units total 35,584 acres of public land (14,990 acres in Oregon). The unit as a whole is divided by roads into six subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and range in size from 703 acres to 2,425 acres. These small subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-80A/NV-020-609

Description

Size: 9,970 acres of public land in Oregon. The Nevada portion (NV-020-609) includes 11,114 acres. There are inholdings of 640 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land.

Location: Five miles east of Denio, in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land, on the east by private land and a BLM road with adjacent public land, on the south by a road; and on the west by private land and a road.

Physical Characteristics: This subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain in the north with slightly steeper topography in the south. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush with some salt desert shrub species in the north and west. Some scattered patches of aspen occur in the drainages in the south end.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains five reservoirs, a developed spring, one well with a windmill, and many miles of vehicle ways. These developments are individually noticeable and have a cumulative impact that makes the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable throughout the subunit.

Solitude: This subunit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area lacks sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to allow a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the sights and sounds of others.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-80C/NV-020-609A

Description

Size: 3,870 acres of public land in Oregon. The Nevada portion (Subunit NV-020-609A) contains 5,507 acres.

Location: Adjacent to and directly east of Denio in Harney County, Oregon, and Humbolt County, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads and adjacent public land on the north and east; and by private land and roads on the south and west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of this subunit is mostly flat. It is the southernmost end of the Pueblo Valley and contains the Crescent Dunes which provide the only topographic relief. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, salt desert shrub species and tall grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains a well, several miles of vehicle ways, a dump site and an old crested wheatgrass seeding. The dump site is a substantially noticeable intrusion, visible throughout much of the subunit.

This impact, especially in addition to the other developments, makes man's imprint substantially noticeable within the area.

Solitude: The basically flat topography and low vegetation do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hiking but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit contains a large portion of the Crescent Dunes which may be of scientific or educational interest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one suggests that Subunit 2-80A be a WSA, as part of a combination with Subunits 2-77A and B, and 2-78E and F. The comment suggests that the combined unit would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Of the six subunits which comprise this unit, only two, Subunits A and C, meet any of the minimum size criteria. Neither of these subunits appears to be in a relatively natural condition as the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. In addition, neither of the subunits offers outstanding opportunites for solitude or recreation. The comments submitted for Unit 2-80 provide no new information which would support a change from the proposed decision. Subunit 2-80A cannot be combined with Units 2-77 and 2-78 because they are separated by private lands and roads. In the wilderness inventory process, each unit or subunit (roadless area) is evaluated on its own merit.

Unit Number: 2-83

Unit Name: Alvord Peak

Subunit: Inventory Unit 2-83 contains 39,580 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into five subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres of public land (ranging from 200 to 3,300 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-83A

Description

Size: 31,320 acres of public land, with inholdings of 1,200 acres of State land, and 880 acres of private land.

Location: About four miles north of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land and roads with adjacent public land on the north; private land, a county road and BLM roads on the east; private land, State land, and a county road on the south; and a county road on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is varied. The west half is gently rolling with some foothills and ridges. The eastern half of the area rises abruptly from the surrounding terrain and contains steep sloped buttes and peaks, including Alvord Peak (7,130 feet). The vegetation includes sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush and grasses with a few widely scattered junipers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding (1,380 acres) along the east boundary. In addition, approximately 6,100 acres in the central portion do not appear to be in a basically natural condition because of seven reservoirs and eight miles of vehicle ways concentrated within this area. Finally, a substantially noticeable powerline intermittently crosses the southern boundary and affects about 1,240 acres. The remainder of the subunit appears to be in a natural condition although it contains widely scattered vehicle ways, mine workings and a substantially unnoticeable powerline.

Solitude: The west portion of the subunit is separated from the rest of the subunit by the 6,100-acre developed area in the unit's center. The 7,945-acre west portion contains no vegetative cover and very limited topographic screening. Bacause of the area's lack of screening and relatively small size, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The east portion of the subunit (14,655 acres) possesses much more varied topography which creates opportunities for finding a secluded spot. This eastern portion offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities offered within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, sightseeing, and rockhounding. Although these activities are not outstanding individually, when considered as a group they do make the opportunities for recreation outstanding within this subunit.

Supplemental Values: Portions of the east side of the subunit contain interesting geological formations. Cultural resources of various types were observed within this area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 14,655-acre wilderness study area; eliminate 16,665 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-two comments were received. Fifteen concur with the proposed decision to identify Subunit A as a WSA. One of the fifteen supports unspecified other subunits as WSAs. Six of the supporting comments state that the recreational opportunities within this subunit are outstanding. Seven comments are opposed to the decision to identify subunit A as a WSA. Five of them argue that it is not natural because of substantially noticeable seedings, powerlines, roads, remains of mining activities or parcels of inlying non-federal land. One suggests that the lack of vegetative screening limits the opportunities for solitude, and another that the lack of water and good campsites detracts from recreational opportunities. One comment opposes the proposed WSA with the argument that it is not needed because there are so few people who want or are able to use wilderness. Another opposes the idea of wilderness use in favor of continued vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Designate a 14,655-acre wilderness study area from Subunit A. Eliminate the remaining 16,665 acres from subunit A because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. Eliminate the remaining smaller subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area appears to be relatively free of the imprint of man's work and possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remainder of the area lacks wilderness characteristics because of the substantial imprint of man's works (1,380 acres of seeding, 6,100 acres impacted by reservoirs and ways, and 1,240 acres affected by a powerline) and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude in 7,945 acres in the west end. The entire subunit lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The comments indicate there may be some confusion as to how much of the area is being designated a WSA. The preceding summary for Subunit A is a discussion of the entire subunit. However, only a portion of that subunit is being designated as a WSA, with the remainder being eliminated because of man-made features or due to the lack of outstanding opportunitiesfor solitude or recreation. We agree that portions of the subunit are not in a natural condition because of seedings, powerlines, roads, etc. However, the majority of those developments are not included within the boundaries of the WSA. The few man-made developments which do remain within the WSA (including several miles of vehicle ways, remains of mining activities, and a small powerline) are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the area's generally natural condition. The fact that some of the developments and road boundaries which have been eliminated from the subunit (and are technically outside the boundary) may be seen from the summit of Alvord Peak is not a major factor in determining an area's natural qualities. These developments cannot be used to eliminate an area unless they are so overwhelming that they become a dominant feature of the view. Because these developments are all well below the peak they would have a tendency to blend in with other developments within the Alvord Basin and the general landscape. A comment states there are 880 acres of private land within the WSA. The WSA contains an inholding of 80 acres or private land and 560 acres of State-owned land. The remaining 640 acres of State land and 800 acres of private land have been eliminated with the remainder of the subunit which does not have wilderness characteristics. We regret that this was not made clearer during the public comment period. The issue of the State and private inholdings will be addressed during the study phase. The comments which refer to the lack of vegetative screening affecting solitude and the lack of water and good campsites affecting recreational opportunities are generally correct. However, the evaluation of the opportunities for solitude was largely based on the topographic diversity of the eastern portion of the subunit. As stated in the section on solitude (above) it is the varied topography which creates opportunities for finding a secluded spot. Individually, certain recreational activities, including camping, have been determined to not be outstanding. However, upon re-evalution, these activities when considered as a group, do provide outstanding opportunities for recreation within this WSA. The comments which question the need for more wilderness or the potential visitor use this area would receive, which favor the use of vehicles within the area, and the need for continued multiple use resource management raise which will be assessed during the study phase of the wilderness review process. However, we cannot consider them during the inventory phase.

Unit Number: 2-84

Unit Name: Basque Hills

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-84 contains 148,290 acres of public land. Roads identified during the intensive inventory divided the unit into five subunits. Three of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land (ranging from 2,290 to 3,880 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria, and are not discussed below. While evaluating the public comments received for this unit, one of the roads identified during the inventory has been reclassified as a dead-end road. As a result, the two largest subunits, A and B, have been combined forming Subunit A. The description below includes all the information contained in the March 1980 narrative and any new information which has been gathered since.

Subunit Number: 2-84A

Description

Size: 139,720 acres of public land, with inholdings consisting of 1,920 acres of State land, and 320 acres of private land.

Location: 15 miles northwest of Fields.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land, State land, and a road with adjacent public land on the north; and roads with adjacent public lands and scattered State parcels on the remaining sides. A small parcel of private land bounds the subunit on the southwest. In addition, this subunit is also bounded by three dead-end roads totaling approximately 20 miles. This includes the road portion of the former boundary road which divided Subunits A and B, a way in the northwest corner of Subunit A which was reclassified after additional field checking, and a road, which was previously identified in the March 1980 decision, in the southeastern corner of the subunit.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topographic feature of this subunit consists of a plateau with scattered foothills and areas of rimrock scattered through the area. The northeastern portion of the subunit is made up of the south end of the Catlow Valley which is flat and contains several shallow lakebeds. West of the valley and throughout the central portion of the subunit (north to south), rimrock areas mark the edges of flat-topped plateaus. Several major rims are scattered throughout this area including Fish Fin Rim. The western portion of the subunit is flat to gently rolling with a few scattered areas of rimrock. The vegetation includes sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and grasses, with some salt desert shrubs in the northeast.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: This subunit contains approximately 29 miles of fence, 54 miles of vehicle ways (these figures include eight miles of heavily graded fenceline), 13 reservoirs, three wells, two guzzlers, a one-half mile ditch and approximately 1,300 acres of the Hawk Valley Seeding. These developments are well dispersed throughout the area, and, with the exception of the graded fenceline and the seeding, are not substantially noticeable imprints of man. The subunit appears to be in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Because of its size this subunit offers outstanding opportunities for achieving a sense of solitude. The rolling hills and buttes in the center of the area offer the best opportunities, but the broad distances between these features and the lack of vegetative screening would limit opportunities for solitude if this central portion were considered by itself. The remainder of the subunit, with its basically flat terrain and low vegetation offer limited opportunities for solitude. However, because this subunit is so large it is not possible to conclude that a visitor to this area would not have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife, viewing wild horses, and hunting. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding. With the exception of Fish Fin Rim this subunit has no unique features or attractions which would add to the recreational value of the subunit.

Supplemental Values: The area provides winter range for antelope and off-site views of Steens Mountain, the Pueblo Mountains, Hawk Mountain, Beaty Butte, Hart Mountain, and the Catlow Valley.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to eliminate both of the major subunits of 2-84 which have since been formed into Subunit A as described above.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and fifteen oppose it. Nine of the fifteen suggest that all or part of the unit be a WSA, but provide no information to support their opinions. Of the remainder one suggests that the entire unit except for the Hawk Valley seeding be a WSA and that the road between Subunits 2-84A and B be rehabilitated; one suggests that Subunits A, B, and C be WSAs; and four suggest that Subunits A and B be WSAs. Each of these six comments argues that there are outstanding opportunities for solitude available in the unit, or in Subunits 2-84A and 2-84B if they are treated separately. The main basis for the argument is the size of the subunits, individually or in combination. In addition, it is mentioned that the rims in Subunit A and the rolling hills in Subunit B contribute to the outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Designate a 138,420-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Eliminate a 1,300-acre portion of Subunit A because it lacks wilderness characteristics. Eliminate the other small subunits because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: Subunit A appears to be in a generally natural condition, with the man-made developments widely dispersed and substantially unnoticeable except for the graded fenceline and the Hawk Valley Seeding. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation; however, because of its large size the opportunities for a visitor to obtain a feeling of solitude are outstanding. Re-evaluation of Unit 2-84, including additional field work involving personnel from both the Lakeview and Burns Districts, concluded that the road which formerly divided this area into two major subunits is, in fact, a dead-end road from the eastern boundary road west to near the district boundary (a total of about ten miles). From that point to the western boundary road (about six miles) there are no signs of improvement, and that portion cannot be classified as a road. As a result of this new information the two subunits were combined to form one large subunit (A). The size of this subunit is the predominant factor leading to the conclusion that the subunit offers outstanding opportunities for an individual to find solitude.

Unit Number: 2-85

Unit Name: South Steens

Revisions of Unit Boundaries: Inventory Unit 2-85 contains 147,815 acres of public land. It is divided by roads and nonpublic lands into fifteen subunits. Eleven of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 15 to 3,570 acres. None of these eleven subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and they are not described below. Subunit O was identified during the public comment period as a result of a newly identified road in the northeast corner of Subunit F. This subunit contains 1,380 acres and is discussed in the rationale below.

Subunit Number: 2-85F

Description

Size: 69,630 acres of public land; 2,820 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and public land define its northern boundary; private land, six dead-end roads, and a county road define its eastern boundary; private and State land and three miles of dead-end roads define its southern boundary; while public, State and private land, a dead-end road, and roads define its western boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography offers a variety of features which are the result of vulcanism, faulting, glaciation, and erosion. The western portion of the area is characterized by rolling foothill country and canyon drainages. Moving eastward, climbing the giant Steens Mountain fault block, one encounters U-shaped glaciated gorges, subalpine and alpine grasslands, and the Steens Mountain Rim area. The rim area is characterized by steep, eastward flowing gorges and drainages defined by rugged escarpments which drop to the desert floor and the eastern edge of the unit. The elevation varies from 4,100 to 9,715 feet. The general vegetative complex for the lower elevations of the area is characterized by sagebrush, grass, and juniper. The higher rim areas contain subalpine and alpine type grassland. Thickets of aspen, willow, alder, and other water-dependent species occupy spots in the drainages. There are boggy areas and meadow areas throughout the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains several mined areas with tunnels, shafts, habitations and some tailings; three water developments in the southeast corner; 12 miles of ways along the eastern side, 12 miles of ways along the west side, and two miles of fenceline. The cumulative effect of these developments on the naturalness of this subunit is not substantial. The dispersion of the developments, the varied topographic and vegetative cover, and the large size of the subunit provide excellent screening for the improvements making most of the unit appear natural. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable in three areas (totaling 830 acres) along the east boundary that have powerlines and a group of mining habitations. The flat to rolling topography in these areas does not sufficiently screen these developments.

Solitude: Three areas totaling 2,860 acres have narrow neck-like configurations (one-eighth mile wide). These areas would not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the users' inability to avoid the presence of others. The rest of Subunit 2-85F with its large size, rugged and varied terrain, and good vegetative cover provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. The variety of vegetative and geologic and zoologic features offer a high degree of physical and mental inspiration to the user. There are three areas within this subunit (totaling 2,860 acres) which do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to their narrow, one-eighth mile wide configuration. These areas are small, have very irregularly shaped boundaries, and are sandwiched between roads and private land.

Supplemental Values: The Steens fault zone offers valued opportunities for geologic education. There is a concentration of State and/or Federally listed threatened or endangered plants in the high alpine areas of the Steens Mountain. There are also a number of species endemic to the area. Mosquito Creek has a unique State species, the Alvord cutthroat trout. California bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer use the area year-round. Evidence of cultural resources have been found within the area.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to designate a 67,320-acre wilderness study area and eliminate 3,690 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics. The final decision differs from the March 1980 proposed decision in that an additional 1,380 acres are eliminated from wilderness review because of a road identified after the proposed decision was announced. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-85G

Description

Size: 35,870 acres of public land. There are 1,280 acres of private inholdings and 1,280 acres of State inholdings.

Location: 15 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and public land and roads define the area's eastern and southern boundaries; public land and roads bound the subunit on the west and north.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by gently rolling topography which gradually rises in elevation as one travels eastward from approximately 5,600 to 6,000 feet. The Donner und Blitzen River and Indian Creek have formed predominant drainages in the eastern portion of the area. The rest of the area has shallow intermittent streams. The general vegetative cover for the subunit is sagebrush, grass, and juniper. The perennial drainages hold water tolerant species such as willow and alder.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: Developments include six reservoirs (five of these are along the western boundary road); 21 miles of ways found throughout the area and Blitzen Crossing Campground along the northern boundary road. In general, the developments are sufficiently dispersed throughout the subunit so that the rolling topography and the sage/juniper vegetative cover adequately screens and makes the developments substantially unnoticeable. The 20-acre Blitzen Crossing Campground is a substantially noticeable development, with toilets, campsites, and picnic areas.

Solitude: The average east-west length of the area is seven and one-half miles and the average north-south breadth is five and one-half miles. The gradually inclining topography and its accompanying low sagebrush vegetation offer limited screening in the western two-thirds of the area. However, the eastern one-third of the subunit with the Donner und Blitzen and Deep Creek drainages, ridge topography and juniper cover offers outstanding opportunities for screening visitors from each other. It is possible to find a secluded spot in much of the subunit because of the topographic and vegetative screening. The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, hunting, and fishing. The user has ample opportunities to experience outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation within this area, especially fishing, backpacking, and hiking within the eastern portion.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of cultural resources has been found within this area.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to eliminate this subunit from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-85H

Description

Size: 24,990 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of State land inholdings and 80 acres of private land inholding.

Location: 12 miles south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private and State land define the south boundary; private land, State land, and a road define the west boundary; while public and private land, and roads define its north and east boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by a steep rim on its most west edge and gradual south and eastward inclining topography. The elevation varies from 4,600 feet to over 6,000 feet. The western rim elevation is from 5,200 to 5,400 feet. From the rim area the elevation changes gradually (600 to 800 feet) through the rest of the subunit. Three Mile Creek, Home Creek, Dry Creek, and Roaring Springs Canyon are dominant east/west drainage features. Home and Three Mile Canyons contain perennial creeks. Grass, sagebrush, and juniper are the dominant vegetative species, with willow, alder, and other water dependent plant species found in the riparian zones along the creeks.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

Naturalness: The subunit contains six reservoirs scattered along the eastern boundary road, four miles of ways, and 12 miles of fenceline just inside the midwestern and mideastern boundary of this area. These developments do not affect the general natural appearance of the subunit because they are sufficiently dispersed throughout the subunit making the area seem generally unaffected by the works of man.

Solitude: The average east-west breadth of the subunit is five miles and the average north-south length is six miles. The canyon areas offer outstanding opportunities to find a secluded spot, even though they comprise a relatively small part of the total subunit. The area above them is sloping to flat and is vegetated with sagebrush and scattered juniper and would offer limited opportunities for solitude. The subunit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, photography, sightseeing, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting. The opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, and sightseeing are outstanding especially within Dry and Home Creek canyons.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting areas have been found within the area.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to eliminate this subunit from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-85I

Description

Size: 10,030 acres of public land; 40 acres of private land inholding.

Location: Eight miles south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Public land and roads form the north and east boundaries; public land, private land, and a road define the south boundary; and private land, public land, and a county road define the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The area is characterized by a steep western rim area and gradually rising ridge topography as one moves from west to east. Kueny Canyon, Black Canyon, and Roaring Springs hold intermittent streams in steep canyons (100 to 400 feet deep). The elevation ranges from 4,373 to 5,724 feet. Grass, sagebrush and juniper are the dominant vegetative species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include two reservoirs, one in the center of the area, and the other in the southeastern corner; a powerline cutting through the northern corner of the area; one mile of fenceline protruding into the area from the northwest; and five miles of ways in the southern portion of the unit. Most of the area appears to be effected basically by the forces of nature due to its rolling ridge topography and the dispersion of the developments, making them substantially unnoticeable. The area in the north with the powerline is relatively flat country and here the development is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The average east-west breadth of the area is three miles, while the average north-south length is four miles. The canyon ridge topography with its accompanying juniper cover creates some screening possibilities. Because of the narrow breadths and lack of good screening, the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting possibilities. The opportunities for any of these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Evidence of a concentration of golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting areas has been found in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty-five comments were received. Seventeen concur with the proposed decision to identify Subunit 2-85F as a WSA. Several of these seventeen believe the WSA should be larger. One argues for the entire unit except for areas near the boundaries that are not natural. Two suggest that Subunits F, H, I be WSAs, either separately or combined with F into one. One identifies Subunits G and H and two mention only Subunit H as WSAs. The main reason given in support of these suggestions is that the rugged canyons, in Subunits G and H in particular, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreational activities such as hiking. Two additional comments suggest that Subunits G, H, and I be WSAs, without any reference to Subunit F. One comment refers only to Subunit I, suggesting that all but the north part, which lacks naturalness, be a WSA because of eagle and falcon nesting areas. Two other comments make no clear reference to the proposed decision, but are apparently in favor of all or part of the unit being a WSA. Thirteen comments oppose, entirely or in part, the proposed decision to identify Subunit 2-85F as a WSA. Two comments provide information about possible roads within the subunit and request that they be reclassified and that the appropriate lands be eliminated from further wilderness review. Most of the others suggest that the subunit should not be a WSA because of substantially noticeable developments that detract from its naturalness. Information is provided about possible roads and water developments, remains of mining activities, cabins, ways, a powerline and inlying non-federal lands. In addition, one comment suggests that Subunit 2-85F should not be a WSA because additional wilderness is not needed. Another opposes WSAs in favor of continued vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Designate a 65,940-acre wilderness study area in Subunit F, a 35,850-acre wilderness study area in Subunit G, and a 24,990-acre wilderness study area in Subunit H. Eliminate 3,690 acres in Subunit F, 20 acres in Subunit G, all of Subunit I, and all small (less than 5,000 acres) subunits because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: Of the fifteen subunits identified in Unit 2-85, eleven subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria. Subunit I, although appearing to be in a basically natural condition (with the exception of a 45-acre portion in the northwest), does not have sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and does not possess any significant natural or recreational attractions which would provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreational activities. Subunits F, G, and H also appear to be in a relatively natural condition after the major imprints of man have been eliminated (a 30-acre area impacted by a group of mining habitations, and 800 acres affected by powerlines in Subunit F; and the 20-acre Blitzen Crossing campground in Subunit G). Each of these subunits possess substantial topographic and/or vegetative screening for solitude as well as offering outstanding opportunities for several types of recreational activities. In addition, each of these subunits contains exceptional natural features which enhance the existing opportunities. Three areas (2,860 acres) in Subunit F offer no opportunities for solitude or recreation because of their narrow configuration. Upon re-evaluation of Subunits G and H, including additional field investigation, we concur with those comments which said the subunits offer outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude. Subunit I, however, does not offer outstanding opportunities for the reasons given above. In response to the comment which proposed Subunit I as a WSA because of eagle and falcon nesting areas, these are more appropriately identified as supplemental values. Such values may enhance existing wilderness characteristics but are not determining factors for designating WSAs. Although several comments discussed the possibility that some of the roads which were found to subdivide the unit are not roads, additional evaluation of these routes confirms that the subunit boundaries are roads. One comment states that a road (previously identified as a way) exists in Subunit F extending from the North Loop Road north along the west side of Kiger Gorge. Field investigtion of this route finds that it is a well used way. Evidence of use (i.e., cattle salting areas) was found but there was no evidence of past improvement or maintenance which must be present to meet the road definition. Another comment which identifies a specific road, states that a road exists along the lower foothills of the east face in Subunit F, from the Grant Place north to Mann Creek then east along Mann Creek to private land. Although the use of this route is restricted by adjacent private lands, evidence of use and past improvement are present along this route and therefore it is reclassified as a road. The result of this is the creation of a new Subunit O and the elimination of a small portion (1,380 acres) of Subunit F, but it does not affect the overall status of this subunit. Water developments, mining evidence, ways, and other works of man in Subunit F identified in public comments have either been eliminated from the WSA (such as the powerlines along the eastern boundary) or are sufficiently screened so as to be substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor traveling through the area. Developments within the WSAs do not significantly detract from the areas' naturalness. The other comments which refer to the presence of non-federal lands within WSAs, question the need for additional wilderness areas, and favor vehicle access and continued multiple use of these areas address issues which will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review. These issues are not part of the inventory phase and cannot be considered at this time.

Unit Number: 2-86

Unit Name: Blitzen River

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-86 contains 76,500 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into seven subunits. Five of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging from 160 to 4,900 acres. These five subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-86E

Description

Size: 58,560 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 720 acres of private land and 520 acres of State land.

Location: Adjacent to and directly south of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: With the exception of a small amount of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge land on the north, the subunit is bounded entirely by a mixture of private land, State land, and roads (including portions of the Steens Mountain Loop Road on the north and south).

Physical Characteristics: This subunit primarily consists of the high desert plateau which forms the western slope of the Steens Mountain. The dominant feature within the subunit is the Donner und Blitzen River. This canyon ranges from one-fourth to one-half mile wide, is approximately ten miles long, and reaches 700 feet in depth as it runs from north to south across the subunit. West of the Donner und Blitzen River the topography consists of rolling hills and small rimrock edged ridges. To the east of the river the plateau rises sharply and the topography becomes much more pronounced. The vegetation is also varied, with stands of juniper occurring on the west side, and quaking aspen, mountain mahogany and mountain meadows occurring frequently on the east side. The canyons contain riparian plant common throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately 6,500 acres do not appear to be in a natural condition because they are affected by substantially noticeable imprints of man including a powerline (2,850 acres), a concentration of reservoirs (3,510 acres), and a crested wheatgrass seeding (140 acres). The remainder of the subunit contains 20 reservoirs, 12 miles of fence, and approximately 35 miles of vehicle ways. These latter developments are well dispersed, overgrown, or otherwise screened so as not to appear substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of the topographic and vegetative screening available within much of the area, the subunit provides many places for visitors to find a secluded spot. These factors, combined with the area's relatively large size and compact shape, create outstanding opportunities forsolitude.

Recreation: This subunit provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, viewing wildlife, sightseeing, photography, hunting, and fishing. Because of the quantity and quality of the recreational activities offered within this area, the subunit has outstanding opportunities for the pursuit of primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

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Supplemental Values: The subunit contains a large concentration of raptor nesting sites within the rocky gorges of the canyons. Portions of the area have been identified as crucial deer habitat and sage grouse booming grounds. Cultural resources of various types have also been identified within the subunit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 52,060-acre wilderness study area; eliminate 6,500 acres because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-86F

Description

Size: 9,380 acres.

Location: 14 miles southeast of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by private land and roads (including the Steens Mountain Loop Road) on the north, by the Loop Road on the east and south, and by private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit F contains the upper end of Little Blitzen Gorge, a glaciated canyon on the west side of the Steens summit. This U-shaped canyon is characterized by steep canyon walls and a perennial stream. The subunit contains a wide variety of vegetation, including aspen on the plateau which surrounds the canyon, on the side slopes, and along the river; mountain mahogany on the slopes; juniper in the lower elevations; sagebrush in the valley floor; and riparian species along the river. The area also contains a wide variety of smaller plants including endemic species and rare or endangered species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately four miles of vehicle ways all occurring on the plateau above the gorge. About two miles of ways are substantially noticeable imprints because of the heavy use they receive and their visibility from the surrounding area. There are no other substantial developments within the subunit.

Solitude: The vegetative screening which occurs throughout the gorge provides opportunities for visitors to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others within the area. This factor combined with the topographic relief found in the subunit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The recreational opportunities offered within this subunit include hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, photography and viewing wildlife. Because of the quality and quantity of these activities the opportunities for recreation are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This subunit contains features of geological, botanical, and general scientific value because of its location within a glaciated gorge and the presence of various rare and endemic plant species. Cultural resources of various types were also oberved within this area.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to designate a 9,380-acre wilderness study area.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty-eight comments were received. Nineteen comments concur with the proposed decision to identify Subunits E and/or F as WSAs. Two comments suggest that Subunit G also be a WSA, but provide no supporting information. One comment discusses the supplemental values of Subunit F but does not refer specifically to the proposed decision. One comment appears to generally support the idea of wilderness, but makes no clear reference to the proposed decision. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the proposed WSAs. Eight comments are opposed to the WSA proposal for Subunit 2-86E, seven are opposed to the WSA proposal for Subunit 2-86F, and one is opposed to both. Most of these comments suggest that one or the other of the subunits is not natural because of substantially noticeable ways, fences, roads, reservoirs, trails, cabins or inlying State and private lands. One comment specifically objects to private lands lying within a proposed WSA. Two comments suggest that wilderness is not needed, and one objects to wilderness and favors continued vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Designate a 52,060-acre wilderness study area within Subunit E and a 9,380-acre wilderness study area in Subunit F. 6,500 acres of Subunit E are eliminated because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. The remaining small subunits are eliminated because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: With the exception of 6,500 acres in Subunit E which do not appear to be in a generally natural condition (due to a powerline, a crested wheatgrass seeding, and a concentration of reservoirs) the remainder of Subunit E and all of Subunit F appear to be in a basically natural condition with man's imprint substantially unnoticeable. Both subunits provide outstanding opportunities for an individual to obtain a feeling of solitude and to participate in primitive recreational activities. Subunit G is not designated a WSA because it contains only 160 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. Re-evaluation of Subunits E and F with respect to the naturalness of the areas (including ways, fences, roads, reservoirs, trails, and cabins) confirms that these developments are not substantially noticeable intrusions. Many of them are sufficiently revegetated and/or screened so that they would not be readily apparent to the average visitor. The comments which disagree with the inclusion of private and State lands, state that wilderness is not needed, or favor continued multiple use as opposed to wilderness raise issues which will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review.

Unit Number: 2-87

Unit Name: Bridge Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-87 contains 28,470 acres. The intensive inventory of the area identified roads which divide the unit into nine subunits. Eight of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The subunits range in size from 730 to 3,290 acres, and are not described below.

Subunit Name: 2-87I

Description

Size: 16,470 acres of public land; 480 acres of State land inholdings; 40 acres of private land inholdings.

Location: Two and one-half miles east of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by BLM roads and adjacent public land; on the east by private land, on the south by State land and a road with adjacent public land, and on the west by the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of the rolling to sloping foothills of the Steens Mountain fault block. Mud Creek and Bridge Creek (formed by Big and Little Bridge Creeks) run westerly across the subunit into the Donner und Blitzen Valley. These drainages provide steep canyons and rimrock areas that add definition to the landscape. The vegetation in the canyons is chokecherry, cottonwood, juniper, and willow. The eastern portion of the subunit has a dominant cover of juniper. Sagebrush and grass dominate the western portion of the area, although juniper can be found in patches throughout this area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a total of 1,630 acres of drilled crested wheatgrass seedings in four parcels located in the western portion of the subunit. All of these seedings are substantially noticeable impacts due to their light coloration and general lack of sagebrush vegetation. A total area of 2,410 acres is affected by these seedings. In addition, nine miles of fenceline, 23 reservoirs, one developed spring, and six miles of vehicle ways are found throughout the subunit, but they are not substantially noticeable. Of these developments, three reservoirs, one and three-quarter miles of fenceline, and one and one-half miles of vehicle ways are located in the area eliminated from further review due to the presence of the seedings. Thus, seven and one-fourth miles of fenceline, 20 reservoirs, and four and one-half miles of vehicle ways are located throughout the remainder of the subunit. Most of these developments are sufficiently screened by the topography and vegetation and are scattered so that they do not appear to be substantially noticeable. The area for the most part is generally natural except for the seedings.

Solitude: The subunit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the presence of several steep canyons vegetated with juniper and riparian species. In addition, major portions of the eastern half of Subunit 2-87I are thickly covered with juniper and the terrain is rolling. A visitor would have ample opportunities to find a secluded spot. The subunit does contain some areas (in the west and central portions) with little topographic relief and low vegetative cover which do not provide secluded spots. However, Subunit 2-87I, when considered in its entirety, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for fishing, viewing wildlife, hunting (mule deer, Pronghorn antelope, quail, chuckars, and sage grouse), hiking, backpacking, photography, sightseeing, and horseback riding. Because of the variety and large number of primitive recreational activities offered by this subunit, the overall opportunity for primitive recreation is considered to be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The subunit has areas that are good for raptor nesting (golden eagle). A sage grouse booming ground is located in the area.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to eliminate the entire subunit from further wilderness study because at that time it was felt that the subunit did not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Six comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and five oppose it. The five opposing comments suggest that all or part of the unit be a WSA. It is mentioned that the vegetation does provide adequate screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude and that the opportunities for hiking and fishing along streams are outstanding.

Final Decision: Designate a 14,060-acre wilderness study area in Subunit 2-87I; eliminate 2,410 acres of Subunit 2-87I because they are affected by substantially noticeable seedings, and eliminate the remainder of Unit 2-87 from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit I is the only one of nine subunits to meet any of the minimum size criteria. After additional field investigations and analysis of public comments, it was determined that the subunit does possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The public comment suggesting that the vegetation present provides sufficient screening for outstanding solitude is correct especially when the topographic diversity of the subunit is also considered. There are ample opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot. One comment states that the streams provide outstanding opportunities for hiking and fishing. The streams do provide good opportunities for these two activities but what makes the recreational opportunities outstanding in this subunit is the large number and variety of activities possible. Information checked during the re-evaluation of the subunit showed that two additional crested wheatgrass seedings were inadvertently omitted from the case file report. They are substantially noticeable impacts covering 810 acres. When this acreage is added to the previous seeding acreage the total becomes 1,630 acres. All of these seedings occur in the western portion of the subunit, are adjacent to one another, and have been eliminated. The affected acreage totals 2,410 acres.

Unit Number: 2-88

Unit Name: Moon Hill

Subunits: The Moon Hill unit located eight miles northeast of Frenchglen in Harney County contains 9,900 acres of public land. The intensive inventory of this area identified roads and non-BLM land which divide the unit into five subunits. All of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres of public land ranging in size from 800 to 4,590 acres. None of these subunits meet any of the minimum size requirements for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from wilderness review.

Rationale: None of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The only comment received for this unit agreed with the proposed decision and there is no new information which would support a change.

Unit Number: 2-91

Unit Name: Guano Slough

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-91 contains 22,165 acres. The intensive inventory identified roads which divide the unit into six subunits. Four of these subunits contain less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 90 to 1,540 acres. They do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-91A

Description

Size: 12,730 acres of public land; inholdings of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 22 miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Public land and a road form the subunit's east boundary; a patchwork of public and private land form its southern boundary; public land and a road form its west boundary; and public, private land, and a road form its north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the area is defined by gently sloping hills in the western quarter of the subunit, and flat lowlands in the remainder of the subunit. The general elevation is 4,616 feet. The general vegetation is sagebrush and grass. There are areas of meadowland in the eastern portion of the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91A has nine miles of fenceline near its south and east boundaries and three miles of ways close to its northwest boundary. The developments are sufficiently dispersed to make them substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The gently sloping hills and flat areas and the low sagebrush vegetation offers little screening for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The size of this subunit is not large enough to compensate for the lack of screening. The opportunity to find solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities to find outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding, however, due to the size of the unit and the lack of topographic and vegetative variety.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-91B

Description

Size: 7,530 acres.

Location: 20 miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundary: Private land forms the area's north boundary; public and private land and a road form its east boundary; public and private land form its southern boundary; and public land and a road form its west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The general elevation of the area is about 4,600 feet. The topography is flat lowland with a vegetative cover of sagebrush and grass. There are areas of meadowland.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91B contains three and one-half miles of fenceline. The rest of the area appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: No outstanding opportunity to achieve solitude is possible in this subunit with its flat topographic relief and low sagebrush/grass vegetation.

Recreation: No features are found within this area to make the visitor's opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding) outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunits A and B meet the minimum size criteria. Both subunits are generally free of the imprint of man's work and appear to be in a basically natural condition. Neither of the subunits offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The only comment received for unit 2-91 agrees with the proposed decision and there is no new information which would support a change.

Unit Number: 2-92

Unit Name: Dead Horse

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-92 contains 36,970 acres. The intensive inventory identified a number of roads that divide the unit into five subunits. Four of them contain less than 5,000 acres, do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not discussed below. The four subunits contain between 1,100 and 3,890 acres.

Subunit Number: 2-92A

Description

Size: 28,530 acres of public land. There are three State land inholdings totaling 1,920 acres.

Location: Approximately 18 miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: Roads and adjacent public land form the boundaries except for a private land parcel on the north side and two State land parcels on the west side.

Physical Characteristics: The general topography consists of an open landscape with rolling hills throughout the entire subunit. Several rim areas and dry lakebeds can be found. Big sagebrush with an understory of perennial bunchgrass, annual grasses, and Sandberg's bluegrass are the common vegetation types. Rabbitbrush occurs on disturbed sites.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains nine reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, a three-mile long bulldozed trail, and three and a half miles of fenceline (in the south). The dispersement of these developments over a large area results in the subunit appearing to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The rim areas offer some topographic screening. However, insufficient vegetative screening and the open expanses prevent visitors from achieving an outstanding sense of solitude.

Recreation: Opportunities for hunting and hiking are present in this area; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within an avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: No comments were received which provided any information to support a change from the proposed decision. Subunit A, the only subunit to meet any of the minimum size criteria appears to be in a natural condition with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It offers no opportunity for an outstanding experience of solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 2-93

Unit Name: South Bollenbaugh

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-93 contains 20,545 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits. Both of the subunits are described below.

Subunit Number: 2-93A

Description

Size: 7,170 acres.

Location: 15 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the east by private land, State land, and a BLM road with adjacent public lands; and on the southwest by private land, and a BLM road and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically flat to gently rolling with two small rims (each less than a mile in length) in the northeast corner. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass in the areas that have not been seeded.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains five miles of powerlines, three miles of vehicle ways, three miles of fence, one reservoir, and 1,280 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The seeding and the powerlines are substantially noticeable and if excluded from the subunit would reduce the acreage to less than 5,000 acres. The imprint of man's work within the subunit is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The low vegetation and lack of topographic diversity would not allow a visitor to find a secluded spot anywhere within this area. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-93B

Description

Size: 13,375 acres of public land with one 640-acre private land inholding.

Location: 12 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north by private land, and a BLM road and adjacent public land; on the southeast by private land and two miles of State land; and on the west by State land and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The topography of the subunit is predominantly flat to gently rolling. The east side of the subunit features a low rim which is the eastern boundary of the plateau that makes up the bulk of the subunit. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains two reservoirs, five miles of fence, and about six miles of vehicle ways. These developments are somewhat dispersed through the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography and low vegetation which is common throughout this subunit provides no screening and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting (antelope). None of these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Both subunits A and B meet the minimum size criteria. Subunit A does not appear to be in a natural condition as man's work within the subunit is substantially noticeable. Subunit B, however, does appear to be in a basically natural condition. Neither subunit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The single comment received for this unit agreed with the proposed decision. There has been no new information obtained which would support a change.

Unit Number: 2-94

Unit Name: Walls Lake

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-94 contains 51,130 acres of public land. The unit is divided by roads into three subunits. One of these subunits contains 2,100 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria, and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 2-94A

Description

Size: 41,510 acres of public land. There are inholdings with 1,920 acres of State land in three one-section parcels, and 280 acres of private land in one parcel.

Location: Eight miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The north boundary is formed by two sections of State land and BLM roads and adjacent public land; the east by BLM roads and adjacent public land, State land and private land; with the south and west boundaries comprised of private land, and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature of this unit is a low plateau which rises approximately 100 feet from the valley floor. This plateau is surrounded by rimrock and accounts for over two-thirds of the total land area which makes up this subunit. Small unspectacular canyons drain from the plateau to the flats below and provide some topographic relief around the perimeter of the plateau. Both the plateau and the lower valley are predominantly flat to gently rolling. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grass throughout most of the unit, with some patches of rabbitbrush scattered through the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within this subunit there are 14 reservoirs, two wells, 17 miles of vehicle ways, 18 miles of fence and six miles of powerline. Although relatively well dispersed throughout the subunit, most of these developments occur in the lower valley lands near the perimeter of the plateau and are visible at many points around the subunit. The developments are substantially noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are available within the small canyons which border the plateau, but their relatively narrow width, short length, and low vegetation would prevent any of these canyons from being outstanding. Both the plateau and valley areas provide little topographic or vegetative screening and do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit offers some opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and hunting; however, the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed within this subunit. Some raptor nesting may occur in the rimrock area which surrounds the plateau.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-94B

Description

Size: 7,520 acres of public land. There are inholdings of 640 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land.

Location: 15 miles west of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: This subunit is bounded on the northeast by a BLM road and adjacent public land, and on the south and west by private land, and BLM roads with adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of a plateau area which rises approximately 100 feet from Tucke Flat on the northeast and gently slopes to the southwest. Rimrock edges occur along the perimeter of the plateau and around some depressions within the plateau. The general topography of the plateau and Tucke Flat to the north is flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition with three miles of vehicle ways being the only imprint of man's work.

Solitude: This subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a visitor to achieve a sense of solitude due to the lack of topographic or vegetative screening.

Recreation: The subunit offers some opportunities for hiking and hunting but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Of the three subunits within this unit only subunits A and B meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. Subunit A contains substantially noticeable works of man and does not appear to be in a natural condition. Subunit B does appear to be in a basically natural condition with only a few imprints of man's work. Neither of these subunits offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. The comment received for this unit supports the proposed decision and provides no additional information.

Unit Number: 2-98

Unit Name: Strawberry Mountain Parcels

Subunits: Strawberry Mountain Subunits 2-98A through D are adjacent to the Malhuer National Forest's Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area or the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area Number 6238A which the President recommended in 1979 be added to the wilderness area. The inventory of Subunits 2-98A through D takes into consideration the fact that they are contiguous to existing or proposed wilderness.

Subunit Number: 2-98A

Description

Size: 200 acres.

Location: Four miles southeast of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private land defines the unit's north, east and west boundary. The lands of Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define its southern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is the steep north-facing upslope of a 6,062-foot mountain. The elevation of the area ranges from 5,827 to 4,600 feet. The west fork of Pine Creek cuts through the southwest corner of the area. Stands of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, juniper, and grass vegetate the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Although the subunit is less than 5,000 acres it meets the minimum size criteria because it is contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness values.

Naturalness: Three-quarters of a mile of fenceline and four areas that have had some mining activity (excavated areas) occur in this parcel. However, none of these works of man are substantially noticeable except for a 20 acre area in the southeast corner where the mined area is quite extensive.

Solitude: The rugged mountain topography with its elevation changes and vegetative cover create an outstanding opportunity for the user to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others when considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area.

Recreation: The subunit offers outstanding opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding and backpacking when considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area.

Supplemental Values: The area is part of a winter range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 180 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 20 acres which lack wilderness characteristics. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-98B

Description

Size: 2,400 acres of public land with 60 acres of private land inholdings.

Location: One-eighth mile south and east of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private and public lands define the east and north boundaries; Highway 395, private, and public land define the west boundary;

private land and the lands in the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define the south boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the ascending ridgelines of Little Canyon Mountain (5,682 feet). The subunit holds one perennial creek and many intermittent streams which have carved significant drainage courses in the mountainsides. The vegetation in the northeastern portion of the area is a mixture of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sagebrush, juniper, and grasses, with some densely forested areas. The south and west portion of the unit is quite rocky with thick areas of mountain mahogany and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria because it is adjacent to an area formally determined to have wilderness values by another agency.

Naturalness: The subunit contains a powerline along the western boundary, timber hauling roads, skid trails, and stump areas in the southeastern corner of the area. In addition, three patented placer claims and numerous unpatented placer claims with substantial areas where surface material has been removed and worked by hydraulic means occur in the east central portion of the subunit. Shafts and scrapings are located in the eastern two-thirds of the area, and there are numerous habitations scattered among these mining claims. The visibility of the scars created by these developments make man's imprint substantially noticeable within the subunit.

Solitude: The steep mountainous topography with its accompanying good vegetative screening of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, juniper and mountain mahogany provides excellent cover within the area and would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the RARE II area.

Recreation: The rugged terrain and vegetative screening provide a mental and physical challenge to the sightseer, hiker, horseback rider, backpacker, and hunter using the area. When the subunit is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area it offers outstanding opportunities to the user.

Supplemental Values: Cultural resources of various types were observed in the unit. Rocky Mountain elk and California bighorn sheep winter in the area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-98C

Description

Size: 720 acres.

Location: Two and one-half miles south of Canyon City.

Boundaries: Private land defines the northern and western boundary; State land defines the southern boundary; and the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area defines the eastern boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Rock outcroppings and a pronounced perennial drainage define the steep mountainous topography of this subunit. Stands of ponderosa pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, Douglas-fir, and grasses are found mixed within the area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas because it is contiguous to an area formally determined to have wilderness values.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be unaffected by the works of man, leaving it completely natural.

Solitude: When this 720-acre parcel is considered in conjunction with the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area, the visitor's opportunity to travel without encountering the sights and sounds of others is outstanding. The steep mountain/canyon topography of this area with its good vegetative cover offers excellent screening for the visitor.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and hunting when considered in conjunction with to the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area.

Supplemental Values: Mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and California bighorn sheep winter in the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 720-acre wilderness study area. Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 2-98D

Description

Size: 210 acres.

Location: Eight and one-half miles southeast of Canyon City.

Boundaries: The Mark Thompson mine and private land define the north boundary; private land defines the east boundary; a road and public land defines the west boundary, while the lands of the Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area 6238A define the south boundary for this area.

Physical Characteristics: The area is bench and foothill country with steep canyons. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir grow primarily in the west portion of the subunit; juniper, mountain mahogany, and grasses grow in the rest of the area. The elevation varies from 4,800 to 4,200 feet. Indian Creek, a perennial stream, runs north to south through the middle of the area, creating a steep canyon.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas because it is contiguous with an area formally determined to possess wilderness values.

Naturalness: The subunit contains an old timber sale in the west end of the area (three and one-half acres), and the Mark Thompson chromite mine (two acres) along the northern boundary. The Mark Thompson mine is a substantial man-made scar. The rugged topography, vegetative screening, and dispersion of the developments make the area basically natural.

Solitude: The varied foothills and steep canyon topography of this area with its accompanying good vegetative cover enable a visitor to travel screened from the sights, sounds, and evidence of others. When the subunit is considered in conjunction with the recommended Strawberry Mountain RARE II Area, it offers an outstanding opportunity for the visitor to find solitude.

Recreation: The area offers several forms of primitive and unconfined type of recreation, including hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, and sightseeing. When the subunit is considered in conjunction with the recommended Strawberry Mountain Wilderness addition, it offers outstanding possibilities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: This area is part of a winter range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 208-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate two acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Public Comments and Final Decision

Summary of Public Comments: Fourteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision. One concurs with the decision to eliminate portions from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposals. Two comments agree with the WSA proposals, but disagree with the determination that Subunit B and portions of Subunits A and D are not generally natural. They suggest that all of the unit be a WSA.

Final Decision: Designate a 180-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A, a 720-acre study area in Subunit C, and a 208-acre study area in Subunit D. Eliminate all of Subunit B, 20 acres of Subunit A, and two acres of Subunit D because they do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The subunits or portions of subunits, above, which are designated as wilderness study areas possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation when they are considered as a part of the existing Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area or the proposed wilderness additions. Subunit B and those portions of the subunits which were eliminated from review, are eliminated because they contain substantially noticeable imprints of man's work and cannot be considered to be in a basically natural condition. Re-evaluation of this determination because of the comments received confirms the original decision to eliminate the areas on the basis of naturalness. These areas are primarily affected by the impacts of various mining operations as well as the impacts of past logging operations (Subunit B). These impacts are substantially noticeable and should not be included within the wilderness study areas.

Unit Number: 2-103

Unit Name: Aldrich Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundaries: Additional field investigations during the public comment period resulted in the re-evaluation of the route which was previously identified as the southern boundary of the unit. Formerly thought to be a road, this route has been reclassified as a way. The southern boundary of the unit is now defined by a road and private land further to the south; and an additional 2,945 acres has been added to the unit.

Description

Size: 9,395 acres. (An additional 2,945 acres has been added to this unit.)

Location: Three miles south of Dayville.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private land; the east boundary is private land and Malheur National Forest land (Aldrich Mountain RARE II Area #6233 and Dry Cabin RARE II #6236 - not recommended for wilderness); the south boundary is a road; and the west boundary is private land and a portion of the South Fork of the John Day River Road. Re-evaluation of this unit during the public comment period resulted in the reclassification of the route along Jackass Creek from a road to a way. (There is a road up Jackass Creek but it turns into a way about a mile west of the unit and remains a way until it ends about one-half mile east of the unit boundary.) The new boundary is a road which lies about one mile north of Murderers Creek.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is comprised of the steep foothills of Aldrich Mountain. The area contains several ridges divided by the deep drainages of Smokey Creek, Oliver Creek, and many smaller tributaries. However, only small segments of the major drainages are located in the unit. The southern end of the unit is comprised of gently rolling hills sloping to the southwest and defined by several small tributaries to Murderers Creek (the largest of which is Chickenhouse Creek). The vegetation includes ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, mostly in the drainages, with juniper, sagebrush, and grass scattered throughout the remainder of the area. Many areas of exposed rock are devoid of vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be in a basically natural condition. The area contains three spring developments, a small seeding, about three miles of fenceline, a fenced experimental field (less than 20 acres), an area which was logged in the mid 1960s (approximately 120 acres) containing two parallel haul roads totaling about one and one-half miles, two small reservoirs, and about two miles of vehicle way. None of these developments are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The topographic diversity offered within most of this unit, combined with the vegetation, provides screening opportunities throughout much of the area. There are many areas where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, photography, sightseeing, viewing wildlife, and backpacking. The topographic diversity and adequate cover in most of the unit make these opportunities outstanding. The poor configuration of the unit may tend to restrict movement within the area and this factor will be considered further during the study phase. This unit provides a high degree of challenge which substantially adds to the opportunities available.

Supplemental Values: The unit lies within the Murderers Creek Wildlife Management Area. The unit provides winter range for deer and year-round range for bighorn sheep.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision, announced in March 1980, was to eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Six comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and five suggest that the unit be a WSA. They argue that BLM should consider the presence of adjacent roadless Forest Service land, that the area should not be eliminated from further review on the basis of its irregular configuration, and that the narrow panhandles could be eliminated to form a WSA with more regular boundaries.

Final Decision: Designate a 9,395-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: This unit appears to be in a generally natural condition as man's imprint within the area is substantially unnoticeable. A visitor to this unit would have outstanding opportunities to experience a feeling of solitude or to take part in outdoor recreation activities. The configuration of the boundary of this unit is a major concern but this will be reviewed during the study phase of the review. After a re-evaluation of the unit and additional field investigations, we concur with those comments which state that this unit should not be eliminated on the basis of its irregular configuration. It should be noted that this unit is not being designated a WSA because of the adjacent Forest Service RARE II areas, but because of the wilderness characteristics it possesses on its own. It was found during the additional field investigations that the southern most boundary of this unit is not a road as previously thought. The road up Jackass Creek, which was the boundary, ends before it reaches public land. As a result, 2,945 acres of previously uninventoried land have been added to the unit. This land has since been inventoried and has also been found to be in a generally natural condition. The only major man-made intrusion is the past timber sale on the ridge north of Chickenhouse Creek. Although the sale contains two short sections of haul road, it is not a major scar and has not been eliminated from the unit.

Unit Number: 2-110

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Description

Size: 5,145 acres of public land with one inholding of 40 acres of private land.

Location: Three miles west of Dayville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by private land; on the east by private land, a road and adjacent public land; on the south by Ochoco National Forest land, and on the west by the Ochoco National Forest, private land, and the Cottonwood Creek road and adjacent public land.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant feature is a ridge line which runs north and south along the east side of the unit, although the entire unit is predominantly foothill country. The unit contains many small drainages which are dry throughout much of the year. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grass, although juniper is widely scattered through much of the area. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir can be found in the drainages at higher elevations.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Man-made developments include about 300 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, 11 miles of fence, and one reservoir. Approximately 300 acres of the higher elevations have been logged. Overall the unit appears to be substantially free of the imprint of man's work.

Solitude: The topographic and vegetative screening which exist throughout much of this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although the timbered drainages offer more opportunities for solitude than the remainder of the unit, these drainages are relatively short, narrow and few in number, and are not outstanding.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer); however, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The unit provides deer winter range and opportunities for viewing off-site scenery.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision. One comment wants it to be a WSA because of its proximity to John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Two suggest the unit be a WSA but provide no information to support the suggestions. The other comment suggests that the unit's ridges and canyons, its pine stands and aspen groves provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears to be in a relatively natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment which proposes WSA status for this unit due to its proximity to John Day Fossil Beds National Monument addresses a factor which is not a wilderness characteristic. The monument is located over thirty miles northwest of Unit 2-110. In response to the comment which states that the unit's topography and vegetative cover provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, further field investigation and re-evaluation confirmed the original conclusions. The unit provides only limited opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The unit's topography includes drainages which are relatively short and narrow. A few of these drainages are timbered but the opportunities they provide for solitude and primitive recreation are less than outstanding. The gentle slopes and open ridges found throughout the remainder of the unit contain low to moderate vegetative screening and do not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Unit Number: 2-111

Unit Name: Hay Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 2-111 located 13 miles northwest of Burns, contains 7,610 acres of public land. Intensive inventory identified several roads which divide the unit into four subunits. All of these areas contain less than 5,000 contiguous acres (from 980 acres to 3,600 acres), do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and are not described below.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two suggest that the unit be a WSA. One of the latter comments mentions that outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the canyons and that there are outstanding opportunities for recreation on the river.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit is divided by roads into four subunits of less than 5,000 acres and none of the subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. The comment which refers to the opportunities for solitude and recreation in the canyons does so primarily with respect to the Silvies river drainage. This river passes through approximately two miles of public land while alternately passing through portions of private land. The river flows through an irregularly shaped subunit (B) which contains only 1,680 acres of public land. Although the opportunities for solitude and/or recreation may be good along this river corridor, this subunit is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Unit Number: 2-114

Unit Name: Syrup Canyon

Description

Size: 7,570 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Wagontire.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads and adjacent pulic lands with the exception of a State parcel on the west and the north.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat tableland with a few gently rolling hills. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area contains two miles of fence, two reservoirs, and two and one-half miles of vehicle ways. These developments are substantially unnoticeable leaving the area in a generally natural condition.

Solitude: Because of the lack of topographic or vegetative screening, the irregular shape, and the relatively small size, this unit does not offer outstanding opportunites for a visitor to obtain a feeling of solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hunting; however, these opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit lies within a major avian flyway between Hart Mountain and Silver Creek Valley.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Only one comment was received for this unit. That comment supports the proposed decision and there is no new information which would cause a change in the evaluation of this unit. Unit 2-114 appears to be in a basically natural condition; however, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 2-115

Unit Name: Alkali Flat

Description

Size: 14,285 acres of public land, with one inholding of 640 acres of State land.

Location: 20 miles north of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded entirely by roads and adjacent BLM lands with the exception of a portion of State land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of an upper plateau region along the south portion of the unit and a valley floor along the north half. Both the plateau and the valley floor are predominantly flat to gently rolling with ridges defining the perimeter of the plateau. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline affects about 30 acres on the east side of the unit. In addition, a rock quarry (five-acre area) in the northeast corner is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit contains three reservoirs and about four miles of vehicle ways. The reservoirs and the ways are not substantially noticeable and the unit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Solitude: The gently rolling topography which occurs throughout most of the unit and the short sagebrush vegetation would not provide the visitor with the opportunity to find a secluded spot. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope), but the opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one suggests that it be a WSA but provides no supporting information.

Final Decision: Eliminate this unit from further review.

Rationale: With the exception of 35 acres which are disturbed by the powerline and rock quarry, the unit appears to be in a basically natural condition. However, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Neither of the comments submitted for this unit provides any new information which would support a change from the proposed decision. Re-evaluation of this unit confirms the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

VALE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 3-6

Unit Name: DeArmond Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 45,510 acres of public land, including 1,760 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. Four inholdings of private property totalling 1,720 acres are located in the unit.

Location: The unit is located immediately north of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north and east by roads and on the south and west by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is diverse, ranging from mountain tops, buttes, and ridges to canyons, foothills, and flats. DeArmond Mountain and Warm Springs Creek Canyon (mainly private property) are major features in the northern part. Beulah Butte and Grasshopper Flat are the most noticeable features in the central part. The south portion is the west-facing open slope of a north-south ridge. The vegetation includes juniper trees, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The entire unit is affected by developments. Many ways were originally constructed and there are substantially noticeable cuts visible for long distances. These improved routes do not meet the road definition because they lack relatively regular and continuous use and maintenance. A total of approximately 40 miles of these improved ways criss-cross the unit. The unit also contains 19 reservoirs, several developed springs and approximately 45 miles of fence. The cumulative impact of these intrusions is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: An outstanding opportunity for solitude exists in the unit due to its relatively large size and the vegetative and topographic screening. The unit's shape would tend to confine users in some areas, however.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of the variety of vegetation and terrain, abundant water (springs, reservoirs and creeks), scenery, and plentiful wildlife. Some of the opportunities include camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography and sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable throughout the unit. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-8

Unit Name: Westfall Highlands

Description

Size: 15,600 acres.

Location: The unit is nine miles east of Beulah Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private property on the southeast, northeast, and for a portion of the southwest boundary. A portion of the northeast boundary between two private property lines is a county road. The remainder is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains steep buttes and hills with flat, rocky mesa tops. Westfall Butte is located in the northwest portion of the unit. The vegetation includes sagebrush and associated aspen and mahogany groves.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Four reservoirs are located near the borders. They are in the bottom of gullies and out of sight from the slopes. A developed spring is hidden in a mahogany grove. A fenceline crosses the unit from east to west. From it, three fences run off the unit in north/south directions. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable. A 320-acre seeding is located in the northeast corner; it is surrounded by a fence and is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is crescent shaped, about nine miles long and averages about two miles wide. The width is not conducive to an opportunity for solitude. In the west end the terrain diversity and vegetative cover provide numerous opportunities for solitude but not enough to consider the entire unit outstanding. The east end offers little vegetative cover and terrain diversity.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, snowshoeing, photography, sightseeing and hunting. Deer hunting is especially popular. However, these opportunities are not outstanding because of a lack of unique or interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers considerable zoological study opportunities, geologic and botanical interest, scenic vistas, and some cultural and historic sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one suggests that the unit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its remote location and the sparse surrounding population.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable except for the seeded area at the east end. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated that the remote location and sparse surrounding population provide the necessary solitude. However, the Bureau's evaluation of solitude depends entirely upon the opportunity that an individual has to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people within the unit. The determining factors are the size and shape of the unit, and the amount of topographic and vegetative screening present within the unit.

Unit Number: 3-12

Unit Name: Hog Creek

Description

Size: 20,480 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south by private property and on other sides by BLM roads. Two dead-end roads approximately four miles long enter the unit in the southeast corner.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists primarily of the Hog Creek drainage. A steep ridge to the east breaks into rimrock. To the west are several less dramatic tributary drainages and slopes rising from Hog Creek. These are crested by a ridge along the west boundary. The sparse vegetation is largely grasses and small sage; lichens grow on the rocky soil surface. Currants, chokecherry and mock orange grow in draws with springs, and many willow grow along Hog Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are five reservoirs in the unit. Four are in the northwest corner; the other is in the southeast leg of the unit. They are all hidden down in gullies or on a ridge and remain out of sight. A fence-line runs along the east boundary and across the southeast portion. About twenty miles of ways crisscross the unit. All the developments are substantially unnoticeable. The area is apparently natural.

Solitude: The size of the unit offers many acres within which to roam to achieve solitude, but the shape, topography, and vegetation do not enhance this opportunity. The unit is an oval-shaped bowl with little vegetation. The unit consists of open, inward facing slopes that are exposed to each other and especially visible from the west boundary. The opportunity for solitude is limited to a few hidden portions of the canyon bottom and several deep gullies. The opportunity is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, hunt, photograph and sightsee. These opportunities are not outstanding. Game populations are not large and attractive sites are sparse.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-16

Unit Name: Lower Bully Creek

Subunits: The unit contains 19,060 acres of public land. A road identified in the west side of the unit during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A is 18,900 acres and Subunit B is 160 acres. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not discussed in the following narrative.

Subunit Number: 3-16A

Description

Size: Subunit 3-16A contains 18,900 acres, including 640 acres of State land presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located ten miles west of Vale.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded primarily by private land. The north and east sides are bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Subunit 3-16A consists of a high plateau and rolling hills. The most pronounced topographic relief is in the northern region. The drainages are shallow and drain mainly to the south-southeast. Shallow outcrops of rimrock exist on some of the drainages. Vegetation consists of low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately 23 miles of ways, nine and one-half miles of fence, two stock water reservoirs, one geothermal well, one concrete irrigation reservoir and two miles of highline canal. The intrusions are substantially noticeable because they are close together and in many cases more than one can be seen from a given point. They tend to dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Subunit 3-16A is shaped like the letter "L" with each arm being one mile wide. The greatest topographic relief is in the north. A limited opportunity for solitude exists in the northern drainages. However, the drainages are narrow, shallow, and short and do not allow users to move about without coming in contact with each other. In the remainder of the subunit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is virtually no vegetative screening. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and the narrow configuration, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Chukar and ground squirrel hunting are outstanding because of the high animal populations in the subunit. Rock collecting, camping, horseback riding and low quality fishing are other recreation opportunities. However, these opportunities are limited because of the lack of challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not qualify as a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude. The subunit does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-18

Unit Name: Castle Rock

Description

Size The unit contains 7,150 acres of public land, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is four miles north of Beulah Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north, east, and west by a BLM roads, and to the south by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains 6,837-foot Castle Rock and two drainages that flow off its west side. The area west of Castle Rock is known as Horse Flat. Spring Creek flows through it. The lowest point in the unit is approximately 3,900 feet. The east third of the unit contains steep slopes and rock outcrops. The vegetation is juniper, mountain mahogany, native grasses, and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the mimimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximatley seven miles of fence in the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because rolling hills and trees block them from view. Three reservoirs are located at the western base of Castle Rock. They are substantially unnoticeable because of the terrain. They are located in a draw between Horse Flat and the ridge, down below the ground level line-of-sight across half of the unit. A spring development lies in a deep draw along the south boundary. Because of its small size and the topographic and vegetative screening, it is substantially unnoticeable. About four miles of ways loop in and out of the unit from three sides. They are substantially unnoticeable because they have grown over and are screened by topography and trees. There are 50 acres of substantially noticeable hunter campsites along the center of the eastern boundary. They are noticeable because of the large number of ways, the corrals, beaten vegetation, and proximity to the boundary.

Solitude: The east side of the ridge offers substantial vegetative cover. This area is two miles long and one-half mile wide; it slopes 30 degrees or more. The remainder of the unit offers vegetative cover only in draws and ravines. The topographic screening is limited to the ridge and several parallel draws along the south end. The ridge is the only major relief in the unit. The ravines at the south end are less than a mile long. The unit is three miles wide and four miles long. The limited distribution of the vegetation combined with the general lack of topographic screening do not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sight-seeing. While the unit is too small for extensive touring an individual could easily spend a day hiking across the unit. A limited number of secluded sites could be found along the ridge and in the dense vegetation. Castle Rock represents an attractive and unique geologic and scenic feature. Opportunities for hiking, photography and sight-seeing would be outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers significant off-site scenic vistas, opportunities for geological, botanical, and zoological viewing and study. Castle Rock is the highest point in the north half of the Vale District. It is the cone of an extinct volcano. The peak is mentioned in early writings about Indians in the area and contains archeological sites.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review because it was believed at that time that the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and four oppose it. Two provide no information about, or positive evaluations of the unit's wilderness values. Two argue that the topography, in addition to the vegetation, provides opportunities for solitude and that these, in addition to Castle Rock as a unique geological feature, are factors which qualify the unit as a WSA.

Final Decision: Designate a 7,100-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 50 acres which are substantially disturbed by the deer hunter campground along the southeast boundary.

Rationale: The area generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the semi-developed campground. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The proposed decision was changed after a re-evaluation based on two comments identifying opportunities for solitude and recreation. Two other comments support this conclusion but provide no substantive information. One comment agreed with the proposed decision to eliminate the area but provided no substantive information concerning the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics.

Unit Number: 3-19

Unit Name: North Fork Malheur River

Description

Size: The unit contains 3,160 acres of public land. This unit is adjacent to the Forest Service's RARE II Area #6241, which was designated for non-wilderness but for primitive, nonroaded use.

Location: The unit is 20 miles northwest of Juntura.

Boundaries: Most of the unit is bounded by private land. Part of the north boundary is contiguous to the Malheur National Forest. Short sections of the boundary are county and other roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the North Fork Malheur River and its canyon. Parts of the canyon are 900 feet deep. Western larch, mountain mahogany, lodgepole pine, willow, juniper, aspen, currants, mock orange, dogwood, sagebrush, and chokecherry grow in the canyon. The highest point in the unit is around 4,680 feet; the lowest is approximately 3,600 feet.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. The unit was intensively inventoried to determine whether it is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in a unimpaired condition. The unit boundaries do not follow any topographical features, making them difficult to identify. It would be practically impossible to hike in this unit without leaving public land and entering private property. The river canyon leaves and then re-enters the unit three times. Only three miles of the river are actually in the unit. Portions of the unit are only one-fourth mile wide and traverse the steep canyonside, not even reaching the river. This makes travel through the unit extremely difficult. The unit is not of sufficient size to make practicable it preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Naturalness: Five miles of fence across the unit are substantially unnoticeable because of their short length and size and the vegetative and topographic screening. One way crosses the southern neck of the unit and another extends to some springs above the rim along the east side. Both are substantially unnoticable due to their short length (less than one mile each) and topographic and vegetative screening. The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: This unit is shaped like an inverted "J". It is about six miles long and averages one-half mile in width. The unit forms a narrow corridor, sometimes along the canyonside, and across the tables above the rim in others. The topography and shape of the unit serve to channel visitors into a narrow neck. Opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others are not outstanding. Although the canyon contains considerable vegetation, it is not sufficient to provide solitude in such a small area. The more heavily timbered portions of the canyon are in the National Forest.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities to hike, fish, hunt, photograph, and sightsee. The opportunities are outstanding. Due to its small size, opportunities for extended hikes are limited but day-hiking opportunities are excellent. There are many attractions and vistas, and considerable challenge. Fishing is excellent. There is an opportunity for hunting big game.

Supplemental Values: This unit is a transition zone between a ponderosa pine forest and the high desert. It contains riparian habitat and geological and scenic features.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and four oppose it. Two provide no information in favor of identifying a WSA. One argues that the area has wilderness characteristics, especially when considered with the adjacent Forest Service land.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is being eliminated from further wilderness review because it is not of sufficient size for it to be practicable to preserve the unit in an unimpaired condition for use as wilderness. The unit is contiguous with USFS RARE II Area #6241, and one comment suggests that the proposed decision represents an example of administrative boundary splitting, denying an appropriate evaluation of the wilderness attributes of the entire area of public lands. However, the BLM wilderness inventory guidelines require that the BLM inventory unit be evaluated on its own merits because the Forest Service has decided on non-wilderness for the RARE II area. Another comment suggests that the unit possesses canyons, rock outcrops, fishing and solitude. The opportunities for solitude have been re-evaluated and, as explained above, they are not outstanding. We agree that the opportunities for fishing are outstanding, but the unit has been eliminated because it does not satisfy any of the size criteria.

Unit Number: 3-20

Unit Name: Mustang Basin

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-20 contains 13,120 acres. It is divided by a road and non-public lands into two subunits. One of the subunits contains 3,500 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-20A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 9,620 acres.

Location: The subunit is located three miles northwest of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the northeast, south, north, and west by roads and on the southeast by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit has two north/south ridgelines with a two-mile wide valley between them and several buttes in the northern portion of the unit. One major and several short deeply incised rugged canyons are in the southern portion of the unit. The vegetation consists primarily of grasses, sagebrush, mountain mahogany and juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five substantially unnoticeable reservoirs are located in the subunit along the east boundary. Four are hidden by the terrain. Angel Wells Reservoir is in an open area, but is shallow and overgrown enough to remain substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit has diverse terrain and vegetative screening, but it is long and narrow. Over half of the subunit is one mile wide. The remainder is two and one-half miles wide. The subunit is crescent-shaped and follows the top of a ridge in the north and an outward-facing slope in the south. The ridge is fairly open. The southern slope is dissected by canyons and gulches. The configuration and canyons do not provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. There are four parallel canyons of one to three miles in length. Although there are opportunities for solitude, they are limited and not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. None of these are outstanding because of an absence of unique or special attractions and challenging features and the subunit's relatively small size and narrow configuration.

Supplemental Values: The riparian habitats, juniper, and mountain mahogany groves are of botanical interest. The diverse terrain and exposed rock in the canyons and rims are scenic and may provide geologic information.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstandingopportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-22

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek

Description

Size: Unit 3-22 contains 11,560 acres, of which 320 acres are state land in the process of being acquired. One 160-acre parcel in the northwest corner is privately owned.

Location: The unit is located 14 miles northwest of Vale.

Boundaries: Private land adjoins the unit on the north boundary and southeast and southwest corners. The remainder of the unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Unit 3-22 is two miles wide and eight and one-half miles long at its greatest dimensions. The topography consists of small valley bottoms and rolling hills. The Cottonwood Creek drainage is the main topographic feature. Shallow rimrock ocurs in the south. Vegetation consists of small pockets of wheatgrass seeding, low sagebrush, bitterbrush and native rangeland grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: Unit 3-22 meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains ten miles of fence, two developed springs, one stock water reservoir, one wildlife exclosure, 17 miles of ways and 500 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. Furrows are evident in the seeding. Individually, the instrusions do not appear obtrusive. However, they are close together and several of them can be seen within a short distance. Collectively, they dominate the landscape and are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The Cottonwood Creek drainage offers a limited opportunity for solitude. However, the drainage does not provide sufficient topographic or vegetative screening to allow users to move about without coming into contact with each other. The rolling hills in the rest of the unit offer little concealment. Scattered aspen trees around springs provide limited vegetative screening. Ninety eight percent of the unit contains low sagebrush, native grass and crested wheatgrass, which offer virtually no concealment. Due to the limited amount of vegetative and topographic screening, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Deer and chukar are hunted in the unit. Horseback riding, backpacking, and primitive camping are other recreation opportunities. However, none of these opportunities are outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, limited natural settings, and absence of unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate unit from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decison.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not have wilderness characteristics because of the many intrusions, the limited solitude opportunities, and the lack of outstanding opportunities for recreation. The only comment received agrees with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-24

Unit Name: Buckbrush Creek

Subunits: Unit 3-24 contains 7,800 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road was identified near the south boundary which divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit A contains 6,540 acres and Subunit B contains 1,260 acres. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-24A

Description

Size: Subunit 3-24A contains 6,540 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located 21 miles northwest of Vale.

Boundaries: Subunit 3-24A is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit's terrain consists of high plateaus and rolling hills; the most noticeable topographic relief is in the northern region. The drainages are shallow and drain to the south. The drainages contain some shallow rimrock outcrops. The vegetation consists of native grass, 1,400 acres of crested wheatgrass, low sagebrush, and fewer than twenty juniper trees. The subunit is nine miles long and two miles wide at its widest point.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 17 miles of ways, ten miles of fence, one wildlife exclosure, four stock water reservoirs, two developed springs, one 1,400-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, four mining claims and three building-stone surface collecting sites in the subunit. Because of the large number and closeness of the intrusions,they tend to dominate the landscape. The works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: A limited opportunity for solitude exists in the northern drainages. However, the drainages are narrow and shallow and do not allow users to move about without coming into contact with each other. In the remainder of the subunit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is virtually no vegetative screening anywhere in the unit. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and narrow configuration, the subunit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The are many ground squirrels and chukars in the unit and hunting opportunities are outstanding. Hiking, camping, and horseback riding are limited because the area offers little challenging terrain, few natural settings, and no unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not qualify as a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions within the subunit and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size critieria. The only comment received agrees with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-27

Unit Name: Beaver Dam Creek. (This unit was previously referred to as Steamboat Rock. The name has been changed to eliminate confusion with other locations within the District.)

Description

Size: 18,900 acres. (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage.)

Location: Five miles northeast of Castle Rock.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a county road on the southeast and by a combination of private property and BLM roads on the remainder. A dead-end road extends into the unit to Kitten Canyon Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is mountainous with numerous drainages (McArthur, Godding, Beaver Dam, Steamboat, Kitten and South Bully Creek Canyons). Sagebrush and mountain mahogany grow on the slopes and ridges; pockets of aspen and riparian vegetation grow in the canyons.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Over 15 miles of fence, seven miles of ways and one developed spring are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic screening provided by the diverse relief. The Kitten Canyon Reservoir is in a shallow, open-sloped canyon at the end of a dead-end road. It is substantially noticeable in that vicinity because of the relative lack of vegetative and topographic screening. The remainder of the unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The opportunities for solitude are outstanding because of the diverse topography, thick vegetative cover, the high number of secluded sites, the unit's size, and the number of deep drainages. The configuration is not conducive to outstanding solitude, yet this detriment is negated by the topographic relief.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities to hike, camp and hunt deer. Good campsites are available along streams and beaver ponds and in stands of aspen trees. The canyons provide interesting places to hike, and deer are relatively plentiful in the area. The area receives heavy deer hunting pressure.

Supplemental Value: Supplemental values include wildlife such as beaver, sagegrouse and deer. The aspen groves and riparian vegetation provide botanical and scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 18,900-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fourteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision and three oppose it. Two suggest that the reservoirs in the unit are substantially noticeable and that the unit is not natural. One provides road information, and suggests that roads, reservoirs and fences all detract from naturalness and that the solitude and recreation values are not outstanding.

Final Decision: Designate a 18,900-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the Kitten Canyon Reservoir from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, except for one reservoir. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. One of the comments that opposed the proposed decision stated that the unit's opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation were "not outstanding". The unit was re-examined in the field and it was reaffirmed that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The opportunities for solitude were found to be outstanding due largely to topographic and vegetative screening.

The same comment also states that there are "several miles of roads within this unit that have been maintained by mechanical means". Three ways follow the major drainages within the unit but none met the road definition because no signs of original construction, maintenance, or regular and continuous use could be found.

Two other comments stated that the Kitten Canyon Reservoir and a developed spring were substantially noticeable, and thus the unit is not natural. The developed spring is a small water trough hidden in a moderate ravine under a grove of 20-30 foot juniper trees. The effect of this vegetative and topographic cover is to exclude the site from view until one is immediately upon it. Thus, it is considered substantially unnoticeable. The Kitten Canyon Reservoir is in a 200-foot deep canyon of moderate (10%) slope. These slopes are not wooded. An already identified interior dead-end road ends at the reservoir. These factors combine to make this reservoir highly visible from the surrounding canyonsides. Consequently, the reservoir is eliminated from further review. The road leading to the reservoir also is eliminated from further review.

Unit Number: 3-30

Unit Name: Slaughter Gulch

Description

Size: The unit contains 15,400 acres of public land. There is one 80-acre parcel of private property in the unit.

Location: The unit is located one mile south of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north and east by roads, on the west by private property and a railroad, and on the south by a line established during an inventory conducted in 1977 and 1978. It was determined at that time that land to the south does not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Characteristics: The southeast portion of the unit consists of flat to slightly rolling plateaus. Several small drainages (Bull, Basque, and Mosquito Canyons) run to the west into the Malheur River. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Over 12 miles of ways crisscross the unit. Thirteen reservoirs and six miles of fence are scattered throughout the area. Several of the reservoirs are substantially noticeable because of their location in relatively flat terrain. A substantially noticeable railroad parallels the western boundary. The cumulative impact of the numerous reservoirs, the railroad, and the many miles of ways causes the unit to appear generally unnatural.

Solitude: The short vegetation provides little or no vegetative screening. The relatively flat relief over one-third to one-half of the unit provides little topographic screening. The unit is seven miles long by two to three miles wide. The only opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of other people in the unit would be in the drainages and side canyons in the western and northern portions of the unit.

Recreation: Primitive recreation activities available within the unit would include deer and chukar hunting, hiking, camping, photography, sightseeing, and limited fishing along four miles of the Malheur River. None of these activities is outstanding due to the lack of diversity in vegetation and topography, the relatively small size of the area, and the limited segment of the river included in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-31

Unit Name: Camp Creek

Description

Size: 19,100 acres (a more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage).

Location: 12 miles southeast of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the east by a road in Cottonwood Canyon. The remainder of the boundary was established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977 and 1978. It is a combination of private property lands and topographic features. The land to the south, west, and north was determined during the 1977-78 inventory to not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Description: Several major side-canyons enter Cottonwood Creek Canyon from the north and west. Some of the named ones include Wildcat, Green, Long, and Camp Creek Canyons. All of them are extremely rugged and steep. The vegetation in the canyons is sagebrush, bunchgrass, cheatgrass, riparian plants and a few juniper trees. Above the canyon rims in the northwest part of the unit are sagebrush flats.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are four reservoirs, approximately nine miles of ways, and two miles of fence in the unit. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The size, shape and the low vegetative screening do not significantly contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the diverse and extremely broken relief provides excellent topographic screening, resulting in an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The numerous springs, the perennial flow in portions of Cottonwood Creek, and the many canyons with their riparian vegetation provide outstanding recreational opportunties for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography.

Supplemental Values: Cottonwood Creek contains a small population of native trout. The deep, narrow, rugged canyons and rock outcrops present unique geologic formations and scenic attractions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 15,520-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fourteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision and three oppose it. Two suggest that the reservoirs and private lands within the unit detract significantly from its naturalness. One comment provides information about roads within the unit and suggests that the unit lacks naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Final Decision: Designate a 19,100-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Eleven of the comments received agreed with the proposed decision. One of the three comments that opposed the proposed decision stated that the unit contained "some private property". There is no private property within this unit, but there are some parcels outside the boundaries at three locations. This same comment and one other stated that the four reservoirs within the unit were "substantially noticeable". Field re-evaluation has determined that they are not. The diversity of relief, the fact that they are spread evenly across the unit, their small size, and the lack of extensive excavations, are reasons why they are substantially unnoticeable.

Another comment provided information pertaining to roads within the unit. One of the routes was found not to exist. The others were the same routes already identified as ways in the original proposal. Signs of original construction were found, but the routes in question do not receive regular and continuous use or maintenance and therefore do not meet the road definition. They are substantially unnoticeable due to the flatness of the terrain above the canyons, and the lack of predominant cuts or color contrasts. This same comment states that the unit offers no outstanding solitude or recreation opportunities. Field examination has sustained the proposed decision. The numerous canyons and gulches, the thick vegetation, the winding drainage patterns, the scenic values, and the challenging terrain combine to offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and recreation.

Unit Number: 3-32

Unit Name: Cottonwood Creek. (This unit was previously referred to as Coleman Spring. The name has been changed to better describe the area that the unit encompasses.)

Description

Size: 7,900 acres. (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage.)

Location: The unit is located 15 miles southeast of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by a road in Cottonwood Canyon. The remainder of the boundary was established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. It is a combination of private property lines and topographic features. The land to the south and east was determined during the 1977-78 inventory to not have wilderness characteristics.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is on the east slope of Cottonwood Creek Canyon. The slopes are very steep and the canyon extremely deep. It is over 1,200 feet from the canyon floor to the top of the rim. West Fork and Little Cottonwood Creek Canyons are two rugged tributaries in the southern half of the unit. Each is approximately three miles long. Numerous rock outcrops and rims are found throughout the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush, native bunchgrass, riparian plants, and a few scattered junipers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three reservoirs, approximately four miles of ways, and five miles of fence in the unit. All of these developments are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The lack of vegetative screening, the relatively small size, and narrow shape (one to three miles wide by six miles long) do not significantly contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the rugged canyons and diverse, broken relief provide significant topographic screening, resulting in an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The numerous springs, the perennial flow in portions of Cottonwood Creek, and the canyons with their riparian vegetation provide outstanding recreational opportunties for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography.

Supplemental Values: Cottonwood Creek sustains a small population of native trout. The deep, narrow, rugged canyons and rock outcrops present unique geologic formations and scenic attractions.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 7,040-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision. The two comments which oppose identification of the unit as a WSA argue that the reservoirs are substantially noticeable and detract from the unit's naturalness.

Final Decision: Designate a 7,900-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. The two comments that opposed the original proposal stated that the three reservoirs within the unit were substantially noticeable. After re-examining the unit, we continue to believe the reservoirs are not substantially noticeable.

Shearing Plant Reservoir is on a shelf below the rim but above Cottonwood Creek in the north end of the unit. It is 800 feet above the creek and 800 feet below the rim. Steep slopes enclose the reservoir on three sides. Because of this topographic screening, it is substantially unnoticeable.

Middle Rim Reservoir is a small impoundment in the central part of the unit. It is also on a shelf, although this shelf is larger and less steep. It is 400 feet below the rim and 600 feet above the creek. It is in rolling terrain which screens it from view from elsewhere on the shelf. It is visible from the rim above, but is small enough to be substantially unnoticeable. It can't be seen from below.

Red Butte Reservoir No. 2 is in the south end of the unit. It is at the head of a steep drainage not far below the rim. It is small, surrounded by steep slopes and is easily hidden. It, too, is substantially unnoticeable.

In summary, due to the small size of these reservoirs and the steepness of the surrounding terrain and the topographic screening, the reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable and do not effect the unit's naturalness.

Unit Number: 3-33

Unit Name: Gold Creek

Revision of Unit Boundary: Inventory Unit 3-33 contains 14,800 acres. A road identified during the intensive inventory crosses the southern part of the unit and forms a subunit of 900 acres. A road identified as a result of public comment following announcement of the March 1980 proposed intensive inventory decision crosses another portion of the southern part of the unit and forms a subunit of 500 acres. These subunits do not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below

Subunit Number: 3-33A

Description

Size: 13,400 acres. (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage.)

Location: The unit is located ten miles east of Juntura.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads on all sides except where private property forms the northern boundary and a line on the northeast boundary established during a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. Land to the northeast of the boundary was determined in that inventory to not have wilderness characteristics. A deadend road penetrates the unit from the south boundary to the North Fork Squaw Creek Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: Two major drainages, Gold Creek and the North Fork of Squaw Creek, and their tributaries dissect the unit into numerous rugged ridges and canyons. Several springs are located in the steep and rocky walls forming the deep canyons. Perennial water flows below the springs through short segments of the canyons. The southwest corner of the unit is a flat plateau. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush, scattered junipers and native grasses, with pockets of riparian vegetation in the canyons and near the springs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 11 reservoirs in the unit. Three reservoirs along the south boundary (Gage, Roy and North Fork Squaw Creek), one reservoir along the western boundary (Gold Creek #1) and two reservoirs at the head of Simmons Gulch are substantially noticeable. All are immediately adjacent to the boundary roads. The other five reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic screening. Three miles of fence and approximately seven miles of ways are also substantially unnoticeable. Except for the six reservoirs at the edge of the unit, the unit appears to be generally natural.

Solitude: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. To some extent, this is due to the unit's size, shape, and vegetative screening. However, the major contributor is the diversity of relief. The numerous canyons and side ravines provide many secluded locations.

Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, camping, sightseeing, photography and nature study. The combination of these activities in the rugged and scenic setting of Gold and North Squaw Creeks represents an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity.

Supplemental Values: The major supplemental value is the scenic resource of the rugged canyons. The riparian and fishery habitat may be unique.

Proposed Decision: Designate 13,500 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate five reservoirs situated immediately on the unit boundaries.

Summary of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision. One of the twelve suggests that the entire unit be a WSA. One comment supports the decisions to eliminate certain portions of the unit from further review, without commenting on the proposed WSA decision. One comment discusses supplemental values without indicating a clear position on the decision. Two comments oppose the proposed decision, and argue that the reservoirs in the unit are substantially noticeable. One comment provides information about possible roads within the unit and suggests that the unit lacks outstanding wilderness values.

Final Decision: Designate 13,400 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate six reservoirs situated immediately on the unit boundaries. Eliminate subunits 3-33B and 3-33C from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the six reservoirs situated on the boundary roads. They are highly visible and substantially noticeable. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Subunits B and C do not meet any of the size criteria.

Twelve comments agreed with the proposed decision, one of which suggested inclusion of Subunit 3-33B. The identified road that severs this subunit from 3-33A was constructed and is still used. The 900 acres that it removes from the unit do not meet any of the size criteria and thus cannot be considered. The comment that discusses supplemental values agrees with those identified in the summary narrative. Two comments state that the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable. Field re-evaluation concluded that the five reservoirs within the unit were sufficiently hidden by the topographic relief to remain substantially unnoticeable. Finally, a comment that provided information about roads within the unit identified the routes that had been determined to be ways during the inventory. Field re-evaluation concluded that one of these routes was indeed a road due to prior construction and current use. This resulted in a new subunit (500 acres) that does not meet any of the size criteria. The road penetrates as a deadend to what was an interior reservoir (North Fork Squaw Creek Reservoir). This put the reservoir on the unit boundary. It is substantially noticeable as described under "naturalness" in the unit summary. Consequently, it was also eliminated from further review. The same comment stated that the unit's opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not outstanding. Field re-evalution found that the deep, steep, winding canyon and thick vegetative growth in the riparian zones provided many secluded locations within which one could attain an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The number of recreational activities which this unit allows was found to be large. The scenic quality is high. Campsites are numerous and there is a high degree of challenge in negotiating the terrain. These factors result in an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 3-34

Unit Name: Squaw Creek

Note: Unit 3-34 was incorrectly listed in the report on the final decision on the initial inventory as being eliminated from further wilderness review. It was correctly shown on the final decision map as being scheduled for intensive inventory.

Description

Size: The unit contains 3,040 acres of public land.

Location: Five miles southwest of Harper, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is bisected from west to east by the North and South Forks of Squaw Creek. A ridgeline that reaches 4,481 feet in elevation extends through the unit from the north to south. The lowest point in the unit is 3,100 feet. A small draw is located in the unit's center between the two creeks. The vegetation is native bunchgrasses and shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit does not meet any of the size criteria.

Naturalnes: A fenceline parallels the south boundary. Due to the proximity to the boundary, the prominence of the fence on a ridgeline, and the grazing pasture contrast, it is substantially noticeable. Two ways follow the creekbeds of the North and South Forks, occasionally going up onto the banks or the ridgetop. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are short, are broken up by the creekbed and the hilly terrain, and are largely overgrown.

Solitude: The unit is one mile wide and three miles long. The only notable topography is the central ridge and its slopes to the east and west. There is no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small size and the lack of secluded sites.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and photography. They are not outstanding because of the small size of the unit (it can be crossed east to west in one hour and north to south in two hours), the lack of unusual or unique features, the lack of secluded or attractive sites, and the limited number of opportunities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable except for a substantially noticeable fenceline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-35

Unit Name: Sperry Creek. (This unit was previously referred to as Saddle Horse Spring, a feature that is not within the unit's boundaries. Therefore the name has been changed.)

Description

Size: The unit contains 5,310 acres of public land. (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage figure.)

Location: The unit is located immediately southeast of Jonesboro.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a BLM road and private property to the west, private property to the north and roads to the east and south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains broken, rough terrain. The three major drainages are Sperry, Indian and South Trail Creeks. Some rimrocked tables extend into the unit from the south end. Indian Creek flows through the unit's center and the Malheur River. The Malheur lies just north of the unit. In most places the drainages are at least 280 feet deep. They are 600 feet deep at the south end below Antelope Swale. The vegetation is bunch grass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: About three miles of fences have been built in the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because of the terrain and their location. One is on a ridgeline and away from the unit boundary; the other is located in the north end.

The unit contains about four miles of ways. One follows the western ridge fence for two miles and the other makes a loop around in the northeast corner. Both are overgrown and screened by the terrain; they are substantially unnoticeable.

A reservoir is located along the south border, above the rim in flat country. The dam, the spillway, and access ways are all apparent, and their cumulative effect is substantially noticeable.

A corral is located along the southwest boundary. The corral is on a narrow shoulder of the adjacent table. The shoulder is so narrow that the boundary road passes through the corral itself; the corral is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit's average dimensions are about two miles by three miles. The drainage bottoms exhibit a thick growth of various shrubs. These provide ample vegetative screening. Despite the small size of the unit, the diversity of the topography (3 main drainages, over 20 smaller ones, and many ridges) provides many opportuities for solitude. From the ridgetops much of the surrounding area can be surveyed, but the bending drainages compensate the loss of solitude affected by these vantage points.

The opportunity for solitude is outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, sight seeing, and wildlife observation present. Casual hiking across the unit would take approximately six hours or more. The hiking in this area is fairly strenuous due to the alternating drainages and ridges, rocky soil surface, and dense growth in the drainages. There are numerous secluded sites, abundant game, and interesting land forms. The only restrictive campsite availability is in the upper canyon. Other sites are available along the ridgelines and other drainages. These factors combine to offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 5,330-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 10 acres because they lack wilderness characterics.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision. One comment supports the decision to eliminate ten acres from further wilderness review, without any reference to the remainder of the unit. Four comments oppose the proposed decision. Two argue that the reservoirs in the unit are substantially noticeable and, therefore, detract from naturalness. One identifies possible roads within the unit, and one refers to small size, a nearby highway and train tracks, and lack of unusual game or scenery as factors which should disqualify this unit for wilderness study.

Final Decision: Designate a 5,300 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate Antelope Swale Reservoir from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are the substantially noticeable corral and reservoir along the south boundary.

Of the eleven comments that supported the proposed decision, three suggested that the unit offered outstanding recreational opportunities. The original proposal concluded that the unit did not. Field re-evaluation concluded that it does. The unit contains several interesting features, is very scenic, challenging to hike, and other reasons (listed in the narrative) that were not previously identified.

One of the five comments that opposed the proposal stated that "The opportunity for solitude would be almost nonexistent because of the highway and the railroad close by and in sight." The wilderness inventory guidelines prohibit the elimination of areas due to off-site sights and sounds (unless they are unavoidable and unignorable). In this case, the highway and railroad were found to be easy to avoid and ignore. They could be seen only from the very top of the unit and could not be heard from within the unit. The drainages are too deep and the slope of the ridges too shallow to allow for observation of these features. Malheur River is also blocked from view. The same comment states that the unit is too small. Congress defined 5,000 acres as a minimum size for wilderness areas. This unit surpasses that figure by 300 acres. The comment states that the unit is bounded by private land on two sides and a road on another. This is true; however, the surrounding land status and boundaries have no effect on what occurs within the unit's boundaries, which is the area under consideration. The comment states that the scenery is not unusual. Our field re-evaluation revealed several interesting sites and enjoyable scenery. The comment states that "access could only be obtained from two sides." Access is a consideration during the wilderness study phase. During the inventory only considerations relating to wilderness characteristics are considered. The comment refers to a lack of "unusual game." Mule deer, antelope, chukars, quail, coyotes, and cottontail have all been identified within this area. These game animals enhance primitive recreational pursuits. Finally, the comment states that the unit "Does not have any trees, only a few willows." The field examination revealed many willows, 30-foot junipers (along Indian Creek) and mountain mahogany as well as dense brush in the canyon and along the creek drainage.

Another comment states a road goes through the unit. This comment may be referring to a boundary road, which is out of the unit and therefore not included in its consideration. There is no road within the unit. Two comments refer to Antelope Swale Reservoir, which was already recognized and eliminated from the unit. Also, one comment refers to an interior fence, which was already identified and found to be substantially unnoticeable. The field re-evaluation found this to still be true.

Unit Number: 3-41

Unit Name: Keeney Creek

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-41 contains 16,280 acres of public land. It is divided by a road identified during the intensive inventory into two subunits. Subunit B contains 1,540 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-41A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 14,740 acres of public land. The unit contains 80 acres of private inholdings in 2 parcels near the center of the unit.

Location: The unit is located 19 miles south of Harper.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by state and private land and a BLM road. The north and south boundaries are roads. The east boundary is a BLM road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain is comprised of rocky, rolling ridges around the deep canyon of Dry Creek Gorge. The gorge crosses the unit from west to east. North of the gorge along the west boundary is a high, open-sloped ridge that dominates the unit. Along the east boundary are lower lying hills and draws with scattered rimrock. South of the gorge are several more low, parallel ridges that lie north to south. The unit is covered with cheatgrass, sagebrush, bunchgrass and some willows.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a substantially noticeable, bladed fenceline across the north arm of the unit. It climbs the high ridge north of the gorge and is readily visible from the boundary and nearby slopes.

Another fenceline follows Dry Creek from the west boundary to the center of the unit. It parallels the gorge along the edge of the southern rim. A visitor viewing the canyon would find it unavoidable from the south rim and highly visible from the north rim. In the center of the unit it drops into the canyon itself and follows along the creek. Visitors to the east half of the canyon would find it unavoidable for one mile. The fence then climbs out of the canyon and parallels the boundary of Subunit B. Its location and visibility through the major topographic feature of the unit make it substantially noticeable.

There are two springs in the unit. Canyon Springs is behind a high ridge in a draw. There it is hidden from view and thus substantially unnoticeable. Black Bull Springs is in the south central portion of the unit in a draw near a substantially noticeable way. The draw is enclosed by fences. This enclosure focuses attention to the spring, making it substantially noticeable.

There are four reservoirs in the unit. These are Lower Slim and Fatty, (along the east boundary), Juniper (along the south boundary), South Dry Creek and Hard Rock Reservoir (along the southwest boundary). Lower Slim and Fatty and Hard Rock Reservoirs are small, hidden by topographic screening and provide little contrast. They are substantially unnoticeable. Juniper and South Dry Creek Reservoirs are along the boundaries, exhibit large excavations, have caused a vegetative contrast, and are not effectively screened by topographic features. They are substantially noticeable.

From the east boundary two ways penetrate into the unit, one to a private inholding in the gorge and another across a ridge top to an overlook. The one that descends into the gorge was constructed but now receives little use. The scars along the side of the canyon are substantially noticeable from many high points and along the canyon rim. The way to the overlook is visible from many locations in the north half of the unit and is substantially noticeable because it is a straight line. From the private property on the east boundary a way follows up Dry Creek, turns, and continues out to the south boundary. Much of this route is upon the creek bed. It appears not to receive any use or maintenance and is hidden from view by the creek. It is substantially unnoticeable. From the south boundary another way penetrates to the creek. It is substantially noticeable because it is fairly straight and is in a shallow, wide draw which makes it highly visible from both sides of the creek. Another way penetrates to the gorge from the southwest boundary. It branches to an overlook and to the private property in the gorge. Originally constructed, it exhibits cuts and fills that are visible from the bottom and rims of the gorge. Although it receives little use and maintenance, it is substantially noticeable due to high visibility and location through the unit's major feature.

The numerous substantially noticeable intrusions in the central portion of the unit result in a cumulative impact that renders the unit generally unnatural.

Solitude: The unit offers virtually no vegetative screening and the topographic screening is minimal. Topographic screening exists in the canyon but only for three miles. The unit averages three miles by seven miles in size. High points offer views across the entire unit and into most of the draws. For these reasons, the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding.

Recreation: The low, rolling slopes that cover most of the unit do not provide secluded campsites, challenging hiking, or interesting features. There are opportunities for photography, hiking, and horseback riding, but these are not outstanding through most of the unit because of the above reasons. In the canyon these opportunities are enhanced because of geographic features. In the canyon these opportunities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are considerable scenic, geological, and botanical values within the gorge. There also are archeological sites in the canyon.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to designate a 12,780-acre wilderness study area and to eliminate 1,960 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received. Eleven of them concur with the proposed decision. One of the eleven suggests that the entire unit be a WSA. One comment discusses supplemental values without reference to the proposed decision. Two comments concur with the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further review. Five comments are opposed to the identification of a WSA in Subunit 3-41A. Three of them provide information about possible roads within the area and also identify additional imprints of human activities which detract from the unit's naturalness. The other two comments argue that the reservoirs and parcels of private land within the unit are substantially noticeable impacts on naturalness.

Final Decision: Eliminate all subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

One of the comments states that the entire unit should be a WSA to provide for more detailed study. The purpose of the inventory is to identify those areas that qualify for study. Subunit B does not qualify because it does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. Therefore, it is excluded from further wilderness review.

One comment states that the 80 acres of private inholdings in the unit's center are within the unit. It is true that this land is surrounded by the unit but the proposal did not include the private land. Private lands are not included in the inventory. Refer to the General Summary of Public Comments, in the Introduction to this report, for more information on this issue.

The same comment and another state that the three reservoirs in the unit are substantially noticeable. Lower Slim and Fatty Reservoir was found to be substantially unnoticeable upon re-evaluation. It is small, does not offer a high color contrast, and is surrounded on three sides by hills that block its visibility from elsewhere in the unit. It is not visible from the unit boundary. Hard Rock Reservoir is surrounded by slopes that cut off its visibility from surrounding areas. The excavation was small, as is the reservoir. There is little color contrast. It remains substantially unnoticeable. Juniper Creek Reservoir is adjacent to the unit boundry. It is visible from the surrounding slopes and is surrounded by a vegetative contrast. These factors combine to make it substantailly noticeable.

A fourth reservoir was located as a result of the re-evaluation. It is adjacent to the southwest boundary, known as South Dry Creek Reservoir. It is small and between two close ridges but has a considerable excavation scar. Because of its proximity to the boundary and the scar's vegetative and color contrast, it is substantially noticeable.

Another comment stated that Wall Rock Springs Corral and Line Cabin are in this unit. These developments are on private land beyond the boundary of the inventory unit. They are also adjacent to the portion of Unit 3-53 that has been eliminated from further wilderness review. This comment also mentioned a reservoir that is actually located in Unit 3-82. Also mentioned was that Hurley Flats was "chained and reseeded". No documentation or knowledge of this project has been found. It is not evident on the ground. Additionally, the comment states that there is a "bladed road bisecting area". No road was found during a field re-evaluation. There are two bladed routes that descend into the canyon from the north and south. These do not connect nor do they meet the road definition due to a lack of use. However, they do present substantially noticeable scars that can be seen from the lower portion of the canyon. Also, the comment states that there are no opportunities for solitude because the unit is "used for cattle grazing" and there are "low flying F-111's". The presence of aircraft is an off-site sight and sound and is not applicable in the inventory unless it is unavoidable an unignorable. The presence of cattle is also inapplicable to the evaluation of solitude. Beyond this fact, proper grazing management is acceptable in wilderness areas according to the Wilderness Act. Finally, this comment states that there is no opportunity for primitive recreation because of "monotonous rolling hills and abundant cattle". Again, the presence of cattle is inapplicable to the wilderness review. The field re-evaluation of the unit has determined the terrain to be as described, with the exception of the canyon.

Another comment refers to the substantially noticeable way that penetrates to the canyon from the north as "maintained". No signs of maintenance could be found. Original construction is evident, however. This comment also refers to the presence of cattle as a sign of man but this is irrevelant to the inventory. Finally, this comment refers to the cumulative impact of the various ways, fences, and reservoirs within this unit. The field re-examination concurs that the number of intrusions, their concentration around the canyon, and their frequency of contact make them substantially noticeable and the unit does not appear to be natural.

Another comment declares the existance of two roads. One, which heads north from Juniper Creek Reservoir, was found not to exist. The other approaches the canyon from the south and was found to be a substantially noticeable way. In addition, this comment states that there is no outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation within this unit. After re-evaluating the unit in the field, we agree that there is no opportunity for solitude. Only the canyon offers an impressive recreational opportunity, yet it is too small to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The remainder of the unit consists of rolling, low hills with virtually no vegetative screening and little topographic screening.

Eleven comments were received supporting the proposed decision. Nine of these comments do not provide any substantive information about the presence of wilderness characteristics. Several comments re-state the Bureau's published information, providing no new data to support or change a decision.

The two comments that included substantive information both stated that the area offered challenging hiking. Field re-examination showed this to be true only in the canyon, along a six-mile stretch.

Unit Number: 3-44

Unit Name: Star Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,360 acres. The southeast boundary was not drawn in the correct location on the initial inventory map. Correcting the map added 40 acres to the acreage reported in the initial inventory. There are three 40 acre private inholdings in the unit.

Location: The unit is located five miles northwest of Crowley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by county and BLM roads and private land. A dead-end road extends from the west boundary to Star Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains the 6,037-foot summit of Star Mountain and the southeast and southwest ridgelines that fall away from it. The elevation change from the south boundary to the mountaintop is about 1,700 feet. Eleven hilltops and four major drainages are located on the ridges. Crowley and Little Crowley Creeks pass through this unit.

Juniper grows on the slopes of the mountain and willow and aspen grow in the draws. Sagebrush and bunchgrass grow on the hillsides.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two developed springs are located along the dead-end road. There are twelve miles of fence in the unit. A short overgrown way extends to Star Mountain from the north boundary. All of the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because they do not contrast with their surroundings, they are screened by topography and vegetation, they are small, and they are located some distance from one another.

Solitude: The unit is six by six miles in size. The southwest slope of Star Mountain is sparsely covered with juniper trees. The remainder of the unit has little vegetative screening. Crowley Creek is the only significant drainage providing topographic screening. Approximately two miles, near the southwest boundary, dissect the unit. Little Crowley and the other drainages consist of open, exposed, more rounded slopes. The slopes of Star Mountain are also open, gently rolling and exposed to full view from a majority of the unit. It would be difficult for an individual to find many secluded locations where the presence of other users could be avoided.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, nordic skiing, photography, and sightseeing. These activities are not outstanding because there is only a moderate diversity of terrain and vegetation, the slopes are open and exposed to view, there are few secluded locations, and wildlife populations are only moderate.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers geological and ecological features that are of scientific, educational and scenic value.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to designate a 14,360-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision. Three comments oppose the proposed decision; two arguing that the reservoirs and parcels of private land within the unit detract from naturalness, and one suggesting that the unit is too small to provide outstanding opportnities for solitude. The latter comment also expresses concern about access to private lands within a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is generally free of the imprints of man's work but does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Three comments oppose the proposed WSA decision because of the private property, the two water developments and the lack of solitude. The private property is not included as part of the unit. The water developments are minor intrusions and substantially unnoticeable considering the unit as a whole. However, the proposed decision is changed because the topography and vegetation are less diverse than originally identified resulting in a determination that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are not outstanding.

Twelve comments were received supporting the proposed decision. Most of these comments do not provide any substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Several comments restated the Bureau's published information, providing no new data to support the decision.

Unit Number: 3-47

Unit Name: Cedar Mountain

Description

Size: 46,310 acres (a more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage).

Location: Approximately five miles east of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded primarily by roads. Some private property is located along the northeast and south boundaries. Five dead-end roads penetrate the unit for approximately ten miles to various reservoirs.

Physical Characteristics: Cedar Mountain, elevation 5,564 feet, is located in the center of the unit. The mountain is extremely rocky and covered with dense patches of juniper trees. It slopes in all directions with gently rounded ridges and shallow ravines. The foothills are covered with sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains 19 reservoirs, 30 miles of fence and approximately ten miles of ways. Several of the ways have revegetated to the point that they appear to be little more than cow trails. The fences are not bladed and tend to blend into the natural landscape. Most of the reservoirs are small and screened by topography due to their location in natural depressions and drainages. SE Reservoir, Jackson Creek Reservoir, and two unnamed reservoirs are located immediately adjacent to the boundary. They would be substantially noticeable to a person entering the area.

Solitude: The relatively large size, the distance from the perimeter to the core (a minimum of three miles), and the topographic and vegetative screening contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding hiking, camping, hunting, photography, bird-watching and sightseeing opportunities. The mountain and its juniper forest are an attractive and interesting contrast to the surrounding sagebrush and desert shrub lowlands. This adds to the attractiveness of the primitive recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 43,380-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the four reservoirs adjacent to the boundary. The total area eliminated is approximately ten acres.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received. Eleven concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. Those two argue that the reservoirs and parcels of private lands within the unit are substantially noticeable detractions from the naturalness of the unit.

Final Decision: Designate a 46,300-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the four reservoirs adjacent to the boundary. The total area eliminated is approximately ten acres.

Rationale: The area generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticable, with the exception of the four reserviors along the perimeter. The area also offers outstanding opportunites for solitude and primitive recreation.

Two coments state that the private property and reservoirs are substantially noticeable detractions from the unit's naturalness. Private property is not included as part of the unit and is not analyzed during the inventory. Four reservoirs were determined to be substantially noticeable and were eliminated. The remaining reservoirs are either small or screened from view and consequently are substantially unnoticeable.

Unit Number: 3-50

Unit Name: Freezeout Ridge

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,140 acres of public land. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the center of the unit.

Location: Eight miles south of Harper.

Boundaries: Roads form the north, east, and west boundaries. The south boundary is formed by the edge of land determined to not have wilderness characteristics in a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is largely west-facing slopes of Freezeout Mountain and Hoodoo Ridge. The southern third includes the east-facing slope of Freezeout Mountain. Freezeout Mountain is 5,479 feet in elevation. There is an elevation change of approximately 2,000 feet across the unit. The vegetation consists of the typical high desert scrub and native rangeland grass community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Seven reservoirs and three developed springs are spread evenly across the south two-thirds of the unit. Only two reservoirs are substantially noticeable. They are along the unit's west boundary, at the foot of the ridge. They are noticeable because of their location. The remainder are substantially unnoticeable because they are tucked into draws, out of view from the boundary and hidden from large portions of the unit.

About seven miles of fence stretch across the top of Freezeout Mountain. The ridge is two-thirds of a mile or less across. Since this is the only obvious travel corridor through the south half of the unit, the fence becomes substantially noticeable because of continous contact with it. It is unavoidable unless the visitor either travels along the boundary or walks along the sidehills. Another east-west fence cuts across the upper third of the unit. A small substantially unnoticeable wildlife exclosure is located in the upper third of the unit. It is hidden due to its location in a drainage.

North of the east/west fence the unit was sprayed during the 1965 Callahan brush control project. The area south of the fence, to the west of Freezeout Ridge, was sprayed in the 1969 Hunter brush control project. The Calahan project is no longer substantially noticeable because native vegetation has returned. The Hunter project is still substantially noticeable due to the vegetation contrast which reveals the linear passes taken by the aerial application. Approximately 1,300 acres of the project are included in the unit.

A way parallels the fence on top of Freezeout Mountain for three miles. Two ways penetrate the unit from the south and east and two more parallel the east boundary. All are substantially unnoticeable due to the lack of use and the topographic screening.

Solitude: This unit is 12 miles long. It is one and one-half miles wide in the northern third and three miles wide in the south. The shape is similar to that of a thermometer. The terrain consists of a ridge that slopes off to the west and east boundaries in the south half and an open, western-oriented slope in the north. There are two drainages, both two miles long, in the south end of the unit. They are straight, steep, and narrow. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the unit.

Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding because of the lack of secluded sites, the small size, narrow shape, and the openness of the steep slopes that have no screening across their length or from the boundary.

Recreation: This unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and photography. These are not outstanding because of the limitations imposed by the terrain. Any hiking or touring becomes either a two-hour walk up one side of the unit and down the other or a six-hour trek along the fence on Freezeout Mountain and a six-mile sidehill hike across a 27 percent slope on Hoodoo Ridge. There are no unique, unusual features or attractive sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Except for the 1,300-acre brush control, the ridgetop fenceline, and two reservoirs, the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-51

Unit Name: Broken Rim

Description

Size: The unit contains 10,800 acres of public land. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the southwest corner.

Location: The unit is located seven miles southeast of Harper.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north by land determined in a 1977-78 wilderness inventory to lack wilderness characteristics. The west and south boundaries are BLM roads. The east boundary is a BLM road and State land.

Physical Characteristics: The north end of the unit contains rough, sharply eroded slopes. There is one central ridgeline. The ridge rises 1,000 feet in about one and one-half miles. The center area of the unit is comprised of rolling uplands surrounding a relatively flat area. The central ridge widens in this area, and the west boundary crosses it. The east boundary is at the bottom of the ridge, in an area known as Sand Hollow. The south end of the unit forms part of the northern slopes of a large basin. The vegetation is sagebrush and desert grasses.

Wilderness Criteria.

Size: The unit meets the size criteria.

Naturalness: There are eleven reservoirs in this unit. Eight are in the draws on either side of the central ridge. One is a fairly large reservoir along the southern boundary. Because of its size, proximity to the boundary, and situation at the bottom of a basin which focuses visual attention towards it, it is substantially noticeable. The remainder of these ridgeline reservoirs are small, effectively hidden, and isolated enough to be considered substantially unnoticeable.

There are three other reservoirs along the unit's west, northwest and northeast boundaries. These are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundaries and their locations at the base of the open slopes. Two are surrounded on three sides by roads and have fence lines nearby. All have numerous ways adjacent to them.

There are ten miles of fences throughout the area. Two divide the unit in half, one crosses the northern end of the unit, and another runs its length. The north/south fence is substantially noticeable because it follows the crest of the ridge. The ridgeline would be the most popular travel corridor through the area. Visitors to the ridge would see the fence the entire time they were on the ridgetop. The other fences are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths and the varying types of topography through which they pass.

Six miles of ways extend into the unit from the north and south ends. These are substantially unnoticeable because they follow creekbeds and draws and are hidden by the terrain.

Solitude: The unit's shape is essentially two rectangles, one above the other, with a connecting narrow neck along the west side. The neck is three miles long and less than one mile wide. The southern block is three by two miles. The northern is four by three miles. Topography in the south consists of open, amphitheater-like slopes of a basin. The narrow neck extends along the flat, open top of Hoodoo ridge. The northern block consists of the east and west slopes of the central ridge. They are open and exposed. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the unit.

The open slopes, the single ridgeline and the limited number of short sidehill ravines and drainages provide few secluded sites. The unit's narrow width would confine users. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, and some limited hunting. None of these opportunities is outstanding. The unit is too small for extensive hiking or riding. There are no unique sights or attractions. The unit can be crossed in two hours on foot from west to east or four hours from south to north.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Except for the mentioned reservoirs and fence line, the unit appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-52

Unit Name: Rock Canyon

Subunits: Unit 3-52 contained 8,460 acres of public land at the conclusion of the initial inventory. During the intensive inventory a road was identified in the southwest corner. It divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-52B is 780 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-52A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 7,680 acres of public land, including 1,280 of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is 14 miles southwest of Vale.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the north by land determined to lack wilderness characteristics in a wilderness inventory conducted in 1977-78. There is private land in the northwest and southeast corners. The remainder is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit includes low hills in the eastern part of Sand Hollow and the west rim of Negro Rock Canyon; the Hoodoo Creek drainage winds through the center. The sandy soils have resulted in diffuse and meandering creekbeds. There are three drainages in the subunit. One has noticeable rimrock. The vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one developed spring. It is substantially unnoticeable due to its small size and location in a steep drainage. Another spring has been enclosed by a fence to prevent livestock trampling. It is along the western border. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is at the base of some low hills in a flat area and is not directly adjacent to the unit boundary.

A north-south fenceline bisects the unit. The terrain screens it; it is substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 11 miles of ways penetrate the area. They are overgrown with grass and brush and are screened by the topography. They are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately eight miles long and two to three miles wide. There is no vegetative screening. The topography would provide limited screening for visitors. The hills are low and most slopes are gentle and open. The drainages are wide basins. There are few secluded sites. Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. The subunit is too small for extensive touring. It can be crossed east to west in two hours and north to south in five hours. There are no unusual or outstanding features. Opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-53

Unit Name: Dry Creek

Description

Size: The unit consists of 32,320 acres of public land. The revised acreage figure is a result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. There is one private inholding of 80 acres.

Location: 21 miles south of Harper, Oregon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads. Three small portions of the west and north boundaries formed by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The area consists of rugged hills with incised drainages in the north. Dry Creek flows from the west boundary to the east boundary through the northern portions. There are gently rolling hills with dissected shoulders in the south. There are also chalky ridges and rocky canyons. The vegetation is high desert shrubs and native rangeland grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit has three substantially unnoticeable reservoirs. All of them are tucked into ravines and draws. There is one developed spring along the west boundary that is substantially noticeable because it is alongside the boundary road.

A bladed fenceline bisects the unit from north to south. It is on a high ridge and only visible when one is directly upon it. However, south of Cherry Spring it is paralled by a now-impassable roadbed that contains many improvement scars up and down slopes and across Wall Rock Ridge. In combination with the fence, they are substantially noticeable because of their location on the slopes and the lack of vegetative cover. The way leaves the fence at Cherry Spring and turns east to Sand Hollow, where it turns south and exits the unit along the southern boundary near Eddy's Place. It has been improved along its entire length and is substantially noticeable as it comes off the ridge on a shoulder and cuts along the side of sand hollow. The remainder of the fenceline north of Cherry Spring is substantally unnoticeable because of the terrain diversity and screening and the regeneration of the blade scar. Another way heads to the northeast from Cherry Spring, but it is substantially unnoticeable because it drops off at the ridgeline via a shoulder and enters a creekbed for the remainder of its length in the unit. Thus, it is either hidden by the topographic screening or unrecognizible as a way.

Along the south boundary a substantially noticeable pipeline swings into the unit and out again. It is bladed and grass is growing in the scar--a stark contrast to the adjacent sage. Within the 320 acres it cuts off is a substantially unnoticeable way. The combined effect of these intrusions is substantially noticeable because of their proximity to one another and the lack of vegetative screening.

There is a small cabin in the northeast portion of the unit in Dry Creek Canyon. Due to its closeness to the boundary, it is substantially noticeable.

In the southwestern corner of the unit there are approximately 17 miles of ways (ten miles of which are substantially noticeable) and six miles of fenceline (also substantially noticeable), two miles of pipeline, and a cabin (Eddy's Place). The cabin is located on an inholding but is unavoidable due to its location at the head of Sand Hollow. The cumulative effect of these intrusions is substantially noticeable across 7,060 acres in this corner of the unit.

Solitude: The unit has a north/south ridge through its center, a drainage on both sides, and a pair of ridges to the outside of these, and several small canyons at the north and south ends. This diverse terrain provides outstanding opportunities to achieve solitude. Vegetative screening does not enhance opportunities for solitude except along the riparian zone in Dry Creek. The unit's large size and crescent-like shape add to the opportunity to avoid others within the unit.

The elimination of the southwestern corner because of unnaturalness results in a one and one-half mile wide, four mile long, 2,460-acre narrow neck between the Sand Hollow way and the east boundary. This includes only the east slopes of Sand Hollow and the sagebrush flat above the slopes and extending to the road. Here, the lack of effective topographic and vegetative screening and the small size of the area reduce the opportunity for solitude to less than outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock collecting, photography, and sightseing. The combination of opportunities results in an outstanding resource. Hikers and riders would have interesting, unique, and challenging terrain to pass through, innumerable sites to enjoy, and many locations suitable for overnight stay. These interesting sites provide sightseeing and photographic opportunites. Rock collecting is enjoyable in the many strata and alluvial deposits. Hunting is limited.

The 2,460-acre narrow neck does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation because it does not offer any natural, secluded sites for camping or possess any unique or unusual features for photography or sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: An earlier inventory revealed the possibility of rare, endangered, or endemic plants in the area as well as archeological sites along the streams. There is evidence of recent volcanic activity.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 22,860-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 9,520 acres from further wilderness review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received. Eleven comments concur with the proposed decision. One of the eleven suggests that the entire unit should be a WSA.

Two comments concur with the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but do not make any reference to the decision to identify a WSA.

Four comments are opposed to the decision to identify a WSA. One suggests that the reservoirs are substantially noticeable. One suggests that the reservoirs and the parcels of private land within the unit detract from naturalness. One comment suggests that the topography of the unit and noise from a boundary road and adjacent ranch would limit the opportunities for solitude. The fourth comment lists roads, reservoirs, seedings, a cabin and other developments that have substantially noticeable impacts on naturalness, argues that noise and dust from a road would disturb solitude and that the presence of cattle and sheep would make opportunities for recreation less than outstanding.

Final Decision: Designate a 22,800-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 9,520 acres from further wilderness review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Portions of the unit lacking wilderness characteristics are the 7,060-acre unnatural area in the southwestern corner that contains many substantially noticeable impacts of man and the 2,460 acres along the eastern boundary that do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

One comment stated the entire unit should be a WSA. No specific reasons or new information supporting this position was given. A re-evaluation of the portion eliminated concludes again that it does not possess wilderness characteristics.

Four comments state that numerous intrusions such as private property, dust and noise from outside the unit, livestock, reservoirs, seedings, a cabin, roads, pipeline and the lack of topographic diversity and screening result in the unit not possessing wilderness characteristics. Private property is not a part of the unit and thus not a factor. The dust and noise is an outside sight and sound which according to Congressional guidance and Bureau policy cannot be considered during the inventory unless it is an extreme situation. According to Congressional intent and Bureau policy, livestock use is not inconsistent with wilderness characteristics. Several of the projects mentioned are located within the portion eliminated or are located outside the unit, such as the seeding, the ways, the pipeline, the developed spring and one of the cabins. The other cabin located at the east end of Dry Creek is also substantially noticeable due to its proximity to the boundary and is eliminated. The remaining developments are either small or screened from view by the topography. The WSA's topography is diverse due to the main Dry Creek drainage and the numerous side drainages and ridges. It is unlike Unit 3-82 (as stated by a comment) which does not include Dry Creek Canyon.

Unit Number: 3-54

Unit Name: Burnt Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 9,600 acres of public land.

Location: Immediately west of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The east boundary is formed by Bureau of Reclamation lands. The north, west, and south are bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of ridges, hills, eroded rims and plateaus. Burnt Mountain is in the middle of the unit, forming one main ridgeline extending to the north. To the south the ridge breaks up and slopes down to a major drainage. The western side of the unit is sloping terrain rising up from Oxbow Basin to the ridge; on the east, the ridge falls off abruptly into Owyhee reservoir. The vegetation is desert sage community with a dominance of cheat and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area appears natural. It is basically unaffected by man. A substantially unnoticeable fence extends across the south end. It is the only known intrusion.

Solitude: Because of its terrain and narrowness, the unit offers only a few opportunities for solitude. The limited opportunities which do exist are confined to a single drainage. The rest of the unit consists of a slope, where visitors would be visible from most of the unit. There is no vegetative screening.

The works and activities of man outside the unit detract from the unit's naturalness. In over half the unit, one cannot avoid seeing a highway, campgrounds, resorts, powerboaters, waterskiers and fishermen on or around Owyhee Reservoir and Dam.

Recreation: There are opportunities for day hiking, rock collecting, hunting, photography, sightseeing, and climbing. Isolated campsites for overnight camping are limited. The majority of camping sites are on the high ridges and plateaus. At the south end a couple of grassy areas, in full view of the unit boundary, offer unlimited campsites sites but no solitude. The opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area may be inhabited by rare reptiles not found elsewhere at these elevations. Rare plants may grow on the lava beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Six comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision, and four oppose it. Two of the comments suggest that the unit qualifies as a WSA because of the hiking opportunities it provides. One comment suggests that it be a WSA in order to protect rare reptiles and plants. The fourth comment asserts that BLM used the sights and sounds aspects of the purity doctrine as the basis for eliminating this unit from further review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work within the unit substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated that rare reptiles and plants found in this unit require protection only wilderness can provide. This comment does not pertain to the necessary wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, solitude, and recreation and cannot be used as part of the inventory to determine whether a unit does or does not meet wilderness criteria.

A comment stated the unit's narrow width mars its opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, but meets requirements for solitude if one's attention is shifted from the horizon to the plants and wildlife at one's feet. If a person continually looked at the ground at his feet he could probably avoid the sights of other people within the unit. This is impracticable, and the unit is too narrow to achieve outstanding solitude under normal use behavior.

A comment stated the unit offered fine hiking opportunities and undisturbed solitude habitats. Because of the unit's narrow configuration (it averages approximately a mile wide), an individual would be in full view of the boundary a majority of the time. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or unconfined primitive recreation.

A comment stated the proposed decision was a classic rendition of the old sights and sounds aspect of the purity doctrine. Assessing the effects of the imprints of man which occur outside a unit is generally a factor considered during the study phase of the Bureau's wilderness review. Outside sights and sounds are only considered during the inventory in situations where the imprint is adjacent to the unit and its impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. While this is the reason they were mentioned for this unit, the unit lacks wilderness characteristics even if the obvious outside sights and sounds are ignored.

A comment stated the unit was well suited for a cluster concept with Unit 3-56. The units would enhance each other and the roads dividing the unit do not divide the experience. The Bureau's mandate from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 is to inventory roadless review. Unit 3-54 is divided from Unit 3-56 by a road. The two units must possess wilderness characteristics individually to qualify for further study.

Two comments concurred with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-56

Unit Name: Dry Creek Buttes

Description

Size: The unit contains 53,720 acres of public land. The revised acreage results from re-calculation using an electronic planimeter.

Location: The unit is ten miles southwest of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east and south by Bureau of Reclamation lands. To the north and west are BLM roads. Two dead-end roads penetrate the unit from the west boundary following buried pipelines for approximately five miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes several different types of environments. The north and south ends of the unit contain steep rocky slopes, deep ravines, tall rimrocked buttes and tables, and nine twisting drainages. The central portion of the unit contains low, rolling hills in the west and 100-foot deep sandy gulches in the east. These taper down to the Owyhee Reservoir with steep slopes.

There are seven prominent high points - Red Butte (4,584 feet), North and South Table Mountains, Black Butte, the two Dry Creek Buttes (4,226 and 4,303 feet) and Nanny's Nipple. The mean water level of Owyhee Reservoir is nearly 2,000 feet lower than the high points, which are within three miles of the water. This is an indication of the steepness of the area. The winding pattern of the drainages, gulches, and canyons create highly diverse, deeply incised areas between the high points. All the drainages flow to the reservoir.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable pipeline in the central west portion of the unit leads to all the water developments in the center core of the unit. The pipeline is buried, but a 20-foot bladed road parallels it. The terrain is rolling, and the bladed line is very noticeable as it is linear and climbs over the small hills. Three substantially unnoticeable reservoirs and six miles of accompanying ways are located in the same area. The cumulative impact of the developments is substantially noticeable. A person hiking across the area would see many of them.

Another reservoir and a two-mile way north of the concentration of pipelines, reservoirs, and ways is screened by topography and is substantially unnoticeable.

Two wildlife guzzlers are situated in small gulches between Black Butte and the adjacent southwest boundary. They are substantially unnoticeable because the steep terrain screens them.

A substantially unnoticeable fenceline crosses the south end of the unit. It is in hilly terrain, crossing ridges and following gulches. Because of the topographic screening, people would not see it unless right next to it.

A horsetrap is located south of the unit's center and another is south of North Table Mountain. They were constructed for a one-time-only gathering and have since fallen into disrepair. They are hidden by the terrain and are substantially unnoticeable. Two ways leading to them follow the lay of the land around the base of the slopes and up drainage bottoms. Another way, once constructed, leads through the unit's center to Pelican Point, which is beyond the unit's boundaries. This is the only access to an old airstrip on that point. This route is not passable and obviously lacks maintenance insuring regular and continuous use.

The unit appears to be generally natural with the exception of the area containing the pipeline, reservoirs, and ways.

Solitude: The unit is 18 miles long, six miles wide, and has an oval shape. There is no vegetative screening in most of the unit. The draws and canyons contain many secluded sites. Except when on a prominent high point, the twisting drainages and the ridges, hilltops, and buttes would limit a visitor's views. They could easily escape the sight of others. The area offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The area offers opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, day hiking, rock hunting, photography, rock climbing, and sightseeing. Campsites are numerous, level, and protected. The attractiveness of the area for recreational activities is enhanced by the rimrocked buttes and razorbacks, rolling hills and canyons, the proximity of the Owyhee reservoir, water sources for wildlife, and scenic vistas within the unit. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are outstanding.

Supplmental Values: The unit offers opportunities for geological study.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 43,700-acre wildeness study area. Eliminate 2,720 acres from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision. One comment concurs with the decision to eliminate portions of the unit but makes no reference to the remainder of the unit. One comment provides detailed information about roads within the unit, but does not refer to the proposed decision.

Five comments oppose the proposed decision to identify a WSA. Three of these comments provide information about roads and other human developments that detract from naturalness. In addition, one of them argues that the topography does not exhibit wilderness characteristics and is more suitable to cattle grazing. The other two comments which oppose the proposed decision argue that the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable detractions from naturalness.

Final Decision: Designate a 51,000-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 2,720 acres from further review. (The study area's acreage is different from that cited in the proposed decision because the size of the area was more accurately measured with an electronic planimeter.)

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area eliminated includes approximately 20 acres of substantially noticeable intrusions and 2,700 acres isolated from the rest of the unit by the intrusions.

The three comments that provided road information all mentioned the route through Deadman Gulch, in the center of the unit. Field re-examinations have repeatedly shown this route to be impassable and not maintained. After its construction in 1958, it was maintained in 1967 and 1976 to allow equipment to reach the airstrip. This is seemingly the only purpose of the maintenance; its purpose was not to insure relatively regular and continuous use. The route becomes impassable in less than this nine-year cycle. Consequently, it does not meet the BLM's road definition as described in the wilderness inventory handbook. It remains substantially unnoticeable.

The route to North Table Mountain is overgrown and shows little use. There is no visible evidence of construction. It does not meet the road definition. The route to Dry Creek Buttes Reservoir was not constructed and is not maintained. It causes little vegetative contrast and is hidden by topographic screening. It is substantially unnoticeable.

Three comments mentioned Dry Creek Buttes Reservoir. This reservoir is in a small valley surrounded by low hills. The excavation scar is minimal. There is no color contrast and the only vegetative contrast is a result of the surrounding sunflowers. It has the appearance of a small pond. It is not substantially noticeable.

These comments also referred to other works of man, all of which are out of the unit or within the portion which has been eliminated because it is not natural.

The comment that argues that the topography does not exhibit wilderness characteristics refers only to the Quartz Basin area, which is west of the unit and not similar at all to the terrain within the unit. Despite this, the terrain in itself is not a wilderness characteristic. Only its effect on naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreational opportunities is considered.

Two comments mention that the wildlife guzzlers (water sources) west of Red Butte are substantially noticeable. These developments have a minimal surface disturbance and are less than three feet in height. They are surrounded by fence. Both are in draws with steep hills around them. They are hidden from view from the boundaries and elsewhere in the unit. Vegetative screening is almost as tall as the guzzler. They remain substantially unnoticeable.

Another comment states that the entire unit should be a WSA to provide for further, more detailed study. The purpose of the inventory is to determine which areas qualify for study. The eliminated portions do not qualify for the reasons listed in the narrative.

Unit Number: 3-57

Unit Name: Quartz Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 15,420 acres. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the center.

Location: Six miles west of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west by private property and a county road. There are roads to the north and south, and to the east is a road and private property. From a point midway along the west boundary a one-mile-long dead-end road extends into the unit to a stockwatering pit.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains deeply incised hillsides and draws, steep slopes, a major canyon, and the chalky Owyhee Breaks. Much of the unit is sand and gravel. Quartz Mountain (5,237 ft) is located outside the west boundary. From the mountain, the unit slopes down to Red Butte Canyon and Quartz Mountain Basin. The terrain is covered with sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenceline crosses the unit from the southwest to the northeast, then back across the unit to the northwest. It was bladed and is paralleled by a way in the southwest portion of the unit. The way leaves the fenceline to cross to the eastern boundary. Its scars are substantially noticeable because of the color contrast and zig-zag switchbacks on the slopes. The terrain diversity is not sufficient to adequately screen it from below. This way divides in the central portion of the unit. One branch goes through Red Butte Canyon and another heads north. Their effect is to render this portion generally unnatural.

At the end of the dead-end road is a stockwatering pit. It is substantially noticeable because of its proximity to the boundary. There are several old, worked mining claims in the unit but due to their small size and the terrain, they are substantially unnoticeable.

In summary, only the southern half of the unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The unit is seven miles long and one to five miles wide. The northern portion is a narrow neck along a slope. It is only two miles wide, three miles long, and is in open, rolling terrain. In the southwest portion of the unit a piece of private land parallels the south boundary creating a narrow, one-half-mile wide neck. This portion is a sagebrush flat and lacks an opportunity for solitude because of its size and lack of screening. A third narrow neck exists between the stockwatering pit's access road and the nearest boundary. This neck is an open slope with no vegetative screening. It is three-quarters of a mile wide and descends to the boundary. It does not offer opportunities for solitude. The remainder of the unit consists of a portion of the Owyhee Breaks. This portion does not contain enough topographic screening to aid in avoiding the presence of others. The canyons are open and shallow. They are short and few in number. Secluded sites are limited. The opportunity for solitude is restricted by the unit's size and shape and lack of screening. The opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. Hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding are limited opportunities due to the unit's narrowness and steepness. Photographic and scenic opportunities are good but they are dependent upon off-site views. They are not outstanding within the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers opportunities for geological studies through the breaks and lower canyons.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to designate a 11,080-acre wilderness study area and to eliminate from further review 4,340 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision. One of the twelve suggests that the entire unit be identified as a WSA. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal. Two comments oppose the decision, arguing that the reservoirs and private land within the unit are substantially noticeable intrusions on naturalness. Another comment mentions numerous works of man and states that there is no opportunity for recreation or solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural only in the southern half. However, that portion does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

The comment that says the entire unit should be a WSA refers to the portions that were eliminated in the proposal. These portions were not proposed to be part of the WSA because they did not meet the criteria for the reasons described in the narrative. The purpose of the inventory is to identify those areas that qualify for study.

Two comments considered that the private property within the unit disqualified the unit from study. There is one 40 acre parcel of private land surrounded by the unit. However, it does not significantly affect the assessment of whether the unit has wilderness characteristics. See the introduction to this report for a further discussion of the issue of inliers of private property surrounded by a wilderness study area.

The same comments refer to a stockwatering pit along the west boundary as being substantially noticeable. Due to its location along a dead-end road (which is a portion of the unit's boundary) and the manner of construction, we concur.

Another comment provided a list of man-made features, most of which are not in the unit. It includes Eddy Spring, which was proposed to be eliminated. It also mentioned the mineral prospects but these are still believed to be substantially unnoticeable for the reasons listed in the narrative. This comment also stated that the unit does not have any opportunities for solitude or recreation. The portions of the unit that are generally natural were re-evaluated in the field and it was determined that the opportunities for solitude and recreation are not outstanding. The drainages do not provide the topographic screening as originally thought. They are too few, too short, too narrow, and too straight. Vegetative cover is non-existent. The recreational values depend largely on off-site views and are not outstanding. Consequently, the proposed decision has been changed.

Twelve comments were received supporting the proposed decision. None of these comments provide any substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Several comments restate the Bureau's published information, providing no new data or arguements to support the decision. A couple of the comments received mentioned "peaks" in the unit. The unit consists of the eastern slope of Quartz Mountain. The peak is out of the unit. The narrative in the report on the proposed decision was unclear on this point.

Unit Number: 3-59

Unit Name: Owyhee Breaks

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 13,100 acres. A road identified during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits in the southeast corner. Subunit B is 100 acres and does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-59A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 13,000 acres of public land. There are six private inholdings, totaling 360 acres, in the central portion of the unit.

Location: The subunit is immediately east of "The Hole in the Ground" of the Owyhee River and 25 miles north of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the south and southeast by county roads, to the northwest by a BLM road and private property, and to the northeast by private property and Bureau of Reclamation lands. Small portions of the southwest corner are along private properties.

Physical Characterists: The southern third of the subunit is the plateau above the Owyhee Breaks. There are two large hills in this area. The saddle between the hills divides this portion into two slopes--one descending toward the southern border and one toward the rim of the Breaks. The rim falls 1,740 feet in one mile to the Owyhee River. The Owyhee River flows through the unit. Five side drainages enter the river, the largest of which is three miles long and drains off the southern rim. Climbing up the north side of the river are several very steep bluffs, slopes, and an alluvial fan. These continue in a stairstep pattern up to the northern boundary in a complex system of gulches, ravines, hilltops, ridges, and slopes.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Three reservoirs are located near the southwest corner. Two are relatively small and not far from the south rim. They are screened by the surrounding topography and are substantially unnoticeable. The third is in the extreme southwest corner of the unit. This area is separated from the rest of the unit by a long, gradual, crescent-shaped slope that surrounds the reservoir. The amphitheater-like shape of this slope directs attention to the large reservoir at the bottom, causing it to be substantially noticeable. The dam and adjacent excavation are obvious works of man.

There are six miles of fence. They are mostly below the southern rim on steep slopes and in ravines. They are substantially unnoticeable because the terrain screens them from view.

There are two ways to the reservoir in the southwest corner, one from the western boundary and one from the southern boundary. They are substantially noticeable because they are next to the reservoir and close to the unit boundaries. A third way cuts across the southern end of the unit just above the rim. It connects the two reservoirs in this area to the east and west boundaries. Because the rolling terrain and sagebrush hide it from view, this way is substantially unnoticeable.

A fire occurred in the southeast corner of the unit in 1973. The vegetation is recovering.

Solitude: The unit is shaped like a "T" and is of a fair size. There is virtually no vegetative screening within the unit, but the topography is diverse. There are a number of hidden draws and drainages. Many of the slopes are 75 percent or greater. The hills and ridgelines on the north side follow twisting, varied patterns. This type of topographic relief provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, river rafting, kayaking, canoeing, photography and sightseeing. The hiking is fairly challenging. There are enough features and attractions with secluded campsites to make overnight stays attractive to backpackers, rock climbers, river travelers, and hunters. The unit is not large enough for extensive touring, yet it offers many opportunities for day hiking and exploring. Photographic opportunities are abundant. Fishing and hunting are good.

Because of the number and quality of activities that can be experienced here, the opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The area offers excellent scenic vistas and geological features. This unit is located in the central portion of the Owyhee Breaks, the area known as "The Hole in the Ground". As a result, it provides interpretational and educational opportunities. There is also a fair number of animals as a result of the river.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,800 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 200 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision. One of the twelve suggests that the entire unit be identified as a WSA. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal. Two comments oppose the decision to identify Subunit 3-59A as a WSA, arguing that the reservoirs and private land within the unit are substantially noticeable intrusions on naturalness.

Final Decision: Eliminate Subunit B from further wilderness review. Designate 12,800 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 200 acres in Subunit A from further review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is generally free of the imprint of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The portion of Subunit A lacking wilderness characteristics is the 200-acre southwest corner with a reservoir and two ways. Here the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Twelve comments agree with the proposed decision.

One coment stated the entire unit should be a WSA. Subunit B is too small (100 acres) to meet any of the minimum size criteria. The portion of Subunit A eliminated (200 acres) generally appears to be unnatural because of several intrusions concentrated within this small area.

Two comments stated that a reservoir, a water development and private property are substantially noticeable intrusions on naturalness. Private property is not included in the wilderness inventory. See the introduction to this report for a further discussion of the issue of inliers of private property in study areas. There are three reservoirs within the unit. One was determined to be substantially noticeable and was eliminated. The other two are substantially unnoticeable due to their size and location.

Unit Number: 3-68

Unit Name: McIntyre Ridge

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,540 acres of public land. There is one private inholding of 40 acres in the south-central portion of the unit.

Location: Eight miles north of Rockville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the east by a county road and Succor Creek State Park, to the south and west by a BLM road, and to the north by another road. A dead-end road penetrates two miles to McIntyre Reservoir No. 2 from the west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains the 4,600 foot, steep, rocky, narrow McIntyre Ridge west of Succor Creek. In the center of the unit the ridge is cut by Board Corral Gulch and Sage Creek. The lowest part of the unit is at the north end, near 2,640 feet. West of the main ridge is a shorter, secondary ridge that has rimrock and walls in places. The unit contains the draw between these two ridgelines. Sage Creek Canyon provides an interesting display of color and erosion. Vegetation is sagebrush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are three reservoirs in the unit. Two are near each other in the south central area behind McIntyre Ridge; one is near the western boundary. A third is along the northern boundary. All are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundary, their large size, or the cumulative impact of ways and fences coupled with the reservoir.

There are four spring developments, all substantially unnoticeable due to their small size and hidden locations.

There are mined areas in the northwest and the northeast corners. The northeast one is substantially noticeable. It is about the size of a football field and has been carved out of a slope in some low-lying hills. The line and color contrast stand out from the surrounding area. The northwest excavation is small and high upon a ridge. Since it is above the surrounding area, it is largely hidden from sight and is, therefore, substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 600 acres of the 1968 Sheepsheads Seeding, a plow and drill project, are along the western side. Because of the obvious pasture contrast, the surrounding fence, the furrows, and its situation along the boundary at the bottom of a slope, this development is substantially noticeable.

There are approximately six miles of fence besides those around the seeding. These fences are substantially unnoticeable because they are short stretches that connect ridgeline breaks or cross draws to prevent stock migration.

A stone walled horsetrap exists in the southern tip of the unit. It is substantially noticeable because it is between the boundary and the ridgeline, which focuses visual attention upon it. It has a linear, unnatural shape and, there are two ways leading to it, which add to the cummulative impact.

Criss-crossing the unit are about twenty miles of ways, mostly the result of ORV use. Many of these are up the gulches and drainages where forks dead-end at rockhounding dig sites. The eastern slopes of the ridge are heavily traveled. There are many ways and diggings, and the cumulative effect upon the unit is substantially noticeable. Generally, the unit does not appear to have been effected primarily by the forces of nature; the works of man have become substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is ten miles long and averages two miles wide. There are two ridgelines with a small drainage between them. There is virtually no vegetative screening.

Due to its narrow configuration, lack of natural, secluded sites, open slopes and lack of vegetative screening, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. The unit is too small for extensive touring because of its narrowness. Yet it offers very challenging hiking and climbing due to the sheer walls. The sightseeing includes outstanding views of Succor Creek Canyon and McIntyre Ridge.

The combination of variety, quality and challenge result in an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined types of recreation within this unit.

Supplemental Values: The area is known for its uncommon geologic features; it offers opportunities for scientific and educational study. The unit also is very scenic.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One suggests eliminating unspecified unnatural areas near the boundaries of the unit in order to define an area which would qualify as a WSA. The other suggests that BLM re-evaluate the naturalness characteristics and identify a WSA, arguing that the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation should outweigh the qualifications of the unit's natural conditions.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Nor does it provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Sage Creek Canyon displays interesting, unique, and colorful geologic erosional formations.

Two comments agreed with the proposed decision. Two comments recognized the presence of the imprints of man's work but felt the outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation qualified the unit for further study. One of these comments felt the ways and seeding would heal with the passage of time and that the boundary could be adjusted to eliminate some of the unnatural impacts. While the unit does possess outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation it must also appear to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable to qualify for further study. The cumulative intrusions within this unit are extensive and are located throughout the unit, ruling out boundary adjustments and rehabilitation.

Unit Number: 3-70

Unit Name: Spring Mountain

Subunits: Unit 3-70 contains 23,960 acres. During the intensive inventory portions a road was found in the southwestern corner. This created two subunits. Subunit 3-70B is 340 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-70A

Description.

Size: The subunit contains 23,620 acres of public land. There are six private inholdings scattered across the unit (three 640-acre parcels, one 760-acre parcel, and two 40-acre parcels). There is one State inholding of 40 acres.

Location: 11 miles north of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by private property and State Highway 95; and to the south, west and north by private property and a county road. A dead-end road penetrates the subunit from the southern border. It traverses Thomas Creek Ridge to private property in the unit's center. Another dead-end road enters the unit at the bottom of Thomas Creek Ridge to gain access to a gravel pit. Another dead-end road enters the unit from the east side to a triangulation site on a hilltop adjacent to the highway.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the 5,944-foot tabletop mountain known as Spring Mountain. From the many natural springs found on and around the tabletop flow Spring Branch, Old Maids, Thomas, Wilson, O'Keefe, Whiskey, Hog Gulch, and Mahogany Creeks. Thomas Creek Ridge rises to 5,070 feet in the southeastern corner of the subunit. The northeastern portion of the subunit contains rolling, parallel hills on the side of Spring Mountain. The vegetation is sagebrush and range grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a diversion ditch along Spring Branch Creek in the southern portion of the subunit. The slopes here are gradual, and the drainage is shallow. The ditch follows the contours of a hillside out of the drainage to another, creating a highly visible, substantially noticeable cut across the slope that is accented by greener vegetation.

A water pipeline begins at a spring in the northeast corner and exits the subunit two miles from the spring. It parallels a fence and has an adjacent construction maintenance way. It passes over low, rolling hills and is substantially noticeable.

A radio repeater site is located in the southeastern corner. It is on the high point of Thomas Creek Ridge. An access road spirals up the end of the ridge, and the facility is immediately adjacent to it. The cummulative effect is substantially noticeable.

There are five seedings in the subunit. The 120-acre Spring Mountain Seeding was plowed and drilled in the northeastern corner in 1969. It is along the boundary road, crossed by two ways, and is on rolling terrain. The non-native grass provides a color contrast. For these reasons, it is substantially noticeable. The four remaining seedings adjoin each other along the western boundary. They are the 1963 and 1964 Old Maid's Basin Seedings, the 1964 Sticky Joe Seeding, and the 1969 Falen Seeding. All were plowed and drilled. The 1963 Old Maid's Basin Seeding has largely regenerated and is no longer noticeable to the untrained eye. The remaining three, more successful, still provide a color and pasture contrast, exhibit furrows and drill rows, lie along the unit boundary on a slope that leans toward it, are surrounded and crossed by fences and have one way across them. The cumulative effect of these factors upon this area (1,340 acres), which is surrounded by a fence, is substantially noticeable. At the foot of Thomas Creek Ridge is a large gravel pit at the end of a dead-end road. Its size, the access road, the color contrast, the exposed earth, the proximity to the boundary and the creek, and its situation at the end of a drainage, make this borrow pit substantially noticeable.

There are about fourteen miles of ways in the subunit, most of which are in the eastern half. One parallels a fence along the eastern boundary across the open hillsides in that area. The cumulative effect of the way and fence as a result of their location and high visibility make them substantially noticeable. In the northeastern corner two ways join to provide access to Shorthorn, Hereford, and Fenwich Springs in the headwaters of Hog Gulch. Often used, the way extends across open slopes and straight up a ridgeline. It is substantially noticeable because it is highly visible from the slopes above and below. It is not effectively hidden by topographic screening. A cluster of ways cross each other between the private inholdings in the north end and the north boundary. Due to their number, the small, narrow neck that they cross, and their proximity to the boundary, they would be seen frequently by a person crossing the area on foot; the cumulative effect is substantially noticeable.

Several miles of other short ways are overgrown, hidden by topography, scattered across the unit, and are substantially unnoticeable. There are about seven miles of fenceline, in addition to those previously listed. Both of the northern inholdings are surrounded by fences. The southern boundary is marked by a fence along private property. The seven miles connect the northern inholdings to off-unit pastures and to the easternmost inholding, which is also surrounded by fence. The many fences in the northeastern third of the subunit would be seen frequently by persons moving through the area. They are not hidden by the topography and therefore are substantially noticeable.

The overall effect of these intrusions across the subunit is that it does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprint of man's work are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is six by seven miles in size forming a rounded configuration. However, 2,800 acres of inholdings are scattered throughout the unit (the majority being in the eastern two-thirds) resulting in several narrow necks within the subunit. Altogether there are 15 miles of corridors, averaging about a mile wide. The lack of vegetative screening, coupled with the limited topographic screening and the fact that visitors would be confined to narrow corridors, means that opportunities to acheve solitude in the eastern two-thirds are not outstanding. The western third consists of half of the tabletop and its western slope to the seeded area. There is virtually no vegetative cover or topographic screening. This portion, five miles long, one and one-half to two miles wide, is too small to provide outstanding solitude without adequate screening. Therefore, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, and some sightseeing within this subunit. The unit is large enough for overnight stay and touring provided a visitor routes the trip along the narrow necks. Restriction to the travel corridors does not provide an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined type of recreation. The photography and sightseeing opportunities are limited due to the lack of unique, unusual features within the unit. Hunting is good due to the numerous springs, but carrying capacity is too small for it to be outstanding. Due to the lack of unusual or interesting features, the poor configurations, the openness of the hillsides, table, and slopes coupled with the moderate topographic screening, the lack of natural, secluded level camp sites that offer shelter, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for a primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received, both concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not appear to be generally natural and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-73

Unit Name: Blue Canyon

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,970 acres of public land. The revised acreage figure is the result of a re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. There is one 40-acre private inholding in the southeastern portion of the unit.

Location: The unit is on the east side of the Owyhee River, 26 miles northwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the west and north by Bureau of Reclamation, State and private land. The eastern boundary is a BLM road and private property. The southern boundary is a county road. A dead-end road enters from the southwest boundary and penetrates one mile to a mine.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is part of the Owyhee Breaks, and forms the east wall of an area known as "The Hole in the Ground". Tall bluffs rise up from the river. A razorback ridge juts out due north from the bluff's plateau. At the northern end of this ridge is Diamond Butte, with the Owyhee river winding around it. Blue Canyon drains from the plateau along the east side of the ridge. The bluffs continue and exit the unit midway along the eastern boundary. The southern end of the unit is on a plateau. The sparse vegetation in the unit is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenced 1,160-acre area along the south boundary extending almost to the rim was part of the 1965 Blue Canyon brush control spraying. It remains substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast at the fenceline. The fence enters the unit from the south boundary, loops around the spraying, then ends at the plateau's rim.

Within this spraying is a reservoir that is substantially noticeable due to the level terrain. This causes the mounds of the dam and excavation to be visible for long distances.

Another short fence penetrates the unit's southern tip for one-quarter mile; it ends at the rim. Because it is so short it is substantially unnoticeable.

Along the northern end of the western boundary is a way. Once improved, it is no longer maintained or used and vegetation is growing in it. The way also passes through hilly terrain and is substantially unnoticeable.

A series of ways exist at the bottom of Blue Canyon as a result of ORV use. These scars are in rolling terrain and are not well established. Vegetation is starting to grow in the tracks, and they are not substantially noticeable.

There are four mines in this unit. Three are substantially unnoticeable because they are located in recesses in the bluffs and therefore hidden from view. The fourth is a large excavation on an open slope and is visible from the slopes below. Because of its size and the contrast between its color of its surroundings, the mine and the zig-zagging access road are substantially noticeable. A number of once-bladed exploration scars work down from the mine to the west side of the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because they followed the ridgetops and are mostly overgrown with vegetation.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening throughout the unit. There is abundant topographic screening. The topographic relief compensates for the unit's moderate size and narrow shape. There are narrow necks at the north and south ends of the unit, but these include the highly dissected bluffs and the Diamond Butte ridgeline. Blue Canyon, which has a total drainage of six miles, offers numerous secluded sites. There are many gulches in the northwest. Because of the topographic screening, the unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are outstanding opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, photography, and sight seeing in this unit. The hiking would include exploration of canyons and gulches and the conquest of a steep ridge. Rock climbing opportunities can be found along the west side of the ridgeline and above Blue Canyon. Opportunities for photography within and looking out of this unit are outstanding due to the unique geologic features and their variety. The unit offers limited overnight camping opportunities; the majority of the sites are in Blue Canyon.

Supplemental Values: There are excellent scenic views of the "Hole in the Ground", the Red Butte and Quartz Mountain areas, and the Owyhee Breaks. The geologic formations within the unit are a good educational tool.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,360-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the 1,160-acre brush control area and the mine site because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received. Thirteen concur with the proposed decision. One of the thirteen suggests that the entire unit be identified as a WSA. One comment supports the decision to eliminate a portion of the unit form further wilderness review but makes no reference to the WSA proposal.

Three comments oppose the proposed decision. Two argue that the reservoirs and private lands within the unit are substantially noticeable intrusions on naturalness; and one argues that the country is uninteresting and not suitable for wilderness.

Final Decision: Designate a 12,800 acre wilderness study area. (The study area acreage is different from that cited in the proposed decision because the areas size was recalculated with an electronic planimeter.) Eliminate the 1,160-acre brush control area and 10 acres at the mine site because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to be generally natural. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable include the 1,160 acres of brush control along the south boundary and the mine southwest of the unit's center.

Two comments stated that the reservoir was substantially noticeable and that the 40 acres of private property should not be designated as wilderness study area. The proposed decision identified the reservoir as substantially noticeable and proposed to eliminate it as part of the substantially noticeable brush control. The private property is not a part of the wilderness study area. The impact of inlying private property will be considered during the study phase.

A comment stated that the unit should not be a WSA because it is nothing but brush and rocks that nobody is going to go out of their way to see. The unit contains a segment of the Owyhee River which receives considerable recreational use and is rated by the Bureau's visual management rating system a high quality scenic value. The WSA possesses all the wilderness characteristics necessary for further study.

A comment stated the entire unit should be a WSA. No reason or new information is provided. The portion eliminated does not appear to be generally natural.

All of the other comments supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-74

Unit Name: Upper Leslie Gulch (Bannock Ridge, which the unit was originally named after, is not in the unit).

Subunits: The unit contains 12,400 acres. During the Intensive Inventory, a road was identified which divided Unit 3-74 into two subunits.

Subunit B contains 460 acres. It does not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-74A

Description

Size: 11,940 acres.

Location: Two miles east of Rockville, Oregon.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the north by a BLM road, to the south, east and west by a combination of private property and other roads.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains two ridges - Grassy and Bannock - that are separated by Bannock Gulch. The ridges reach an elevation of 5,535 feet and 5,391 feet. The lowest point in the subunit is around 3,800 feet. The westernmost portion of the unit contains the head of Leslie Gulch, known for its interesting geologic formations. Along the southern boundary is a peak known as Rocky Butte. These southern slopes drain into Carter Creek and the Whitenburg. Bannock Ridge and Grassy Ridge have some very small patches of juniper. Individual, remote junipers are scattered across much of the area. The most common vegetation is bunchgrass and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria:

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The 2,460-acre Spring Creek Seeding was plowed and drilled along the east boundary in 1967. The furrows and lines on the rolling hills are still visible and the color contrast between the native and introduced vegetation is obvious. The area is crossed by ways and surrounded by a fence. The seeding is substantially noticeable.

A bentonite mine with several excavations is also located along the eastern boundary. The 20-acre area is right off the boundary road. Since the excavations are on the eastern slope of some low hills that face the boundary, they are substantially noticeable.

Several ways cross the unit. Most provide access to developed springs. One is up a straight draw from the north boundary. Because it is visible down its length and exhibits a considerable scar, it is substantially noticeable. Another way cuts across the center of the unit and climbs up Grassy Ridge. This was a fence and spring construction access route. Not effectively hidden by the topographic screening, it is substantially noticeable.

There are about four miles of fence in the area, three of which are along the top of Grassy Ridge. These fences are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths and invisibility at a distance. Another fence surrounds the seeded area and is substantially noticeable because of the vegetative contrast.

Behind Rocky Butte is a short stone wall to restrict stock drift from one pasture to another. Due to its location (high upon the ridge between the Butte and some rimrock), its short length, and lack of color contrast, it is substantially unnoticeable.

Generally the area east of Grassy Ridge does not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature due to the cumulative effect of the impacts of man that cut the unit up into small portions and the resulting frequency of contact. The 3,000 acres west of the ridge are pristine.

Solitude: The subunit is oval-shaped, averaging five miles by two and one-half miles. The single juniper trees do not supply vegetative screening. The slopes of Bannock Ridge do not provide topographic screening. This subunit is a ridgeline with roads on both sides. Consequently, there is no outstanding opportunity for solitude on these slopes.

The western end of the subunit contains the head of Leslie Gulch, which is a steep-sided, twisting, deep gulch that offers many opportunities for solitude. This area contains less than two miles of the canyon, which is too short to consider outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing within this subunit. The subunit can be crossed in one hour north to south or three hours west to east. This is too small for extensive touring. These activities are not outstanding in this area because of its size, and the lack of unusual or unique features and secluded sites. The western portion offers outstanding opportunities for climbing, photography, and sightseeing due to the geologic formations and twisting canyon. This is the pristine 3,000 acres mentioned earlier.

Supplemental Values: The Leslie Gulch portion contains highly unique and unusual geologic features of volcanic ash, pinnacles, and outcrops for observation and study. This area is also a bighorn sheep range. It may also contain various rare and endangered plants.

Proposed Decision: Designate 3,200 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,740 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were recieved. Thirteen concur with the proposed decision. One of the thirteen suggests that all of Subunit 3-74A should be a WSA. Another states that the boundary with Unit 3-75 does not qualify as a road for its entire length. Two comments support the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but make no mention of the proposed decision to identify a WSA.

Final Decision: Designate 3,000 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. (A more accurate calculation of the proposed WSA's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage.) Eliminate 8,940 acres of Subunit A from further wilderness review. Eliminate Subunit B from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area in the western end of the subunit is essentially natural. It is too small for outstanding opportunities for solitude but it does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Due to the easily identifiable boundaries (two roads and a fenceline) this portion can be easily managed and is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The 8,940 acres proposed for elimination do not appear generally natural and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. They do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

A comment stated the boundary road between Unit 3-74 and 3-75 is a way. The boundary road provides access to the Spring Creek Ranch. It has been constructed and is regularly used and maintained.

A comment stated the entire unit should be a WSA. No reasons or new information were provided. The 8,940 acres do not appear to be generally natural nor do they offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Six comments stated the proposed WSA offered outstanding solitude. Even with the diverse topography the area is too small (3,000 acres) to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The remainder of the comments support the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-75

Unit Name: Slocum Creek (Black Rock, which the unit was originally named after, is not in the unit).

Description

Size: 7,600 acres (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage).

Location: Eight miles west of Rockville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by the Leslie Gulch road. The remainder is bounded by private property, roads and Bureau of Reclamation land.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of rugged, deep, colorful canyons with eroded volcanic tuff pinnacles. Major drainages include Slocum Creek, Spring Creek and Schoolhouse Gulch. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and native grasses, with scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears to be generally natural with only a faint way and a parallel fence extending down a ridgetop for approximately two miles.

Solitude: The rugged topography, with its many deep canyons and side drainages, provides an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive recreation activities. They include hiking, camping, (scenery and wildlife) and hunting. There are many unique or interesting topographic features in the unit. The topography offers challenging hiking and exploring opportunities.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include bighorn sheep, geologic formations, scenery and possibly rare and endangered plant species.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 6,800-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received, and they all concur with the proposed decision. One of them states that the boundary with Subunit 3-74A does not qualify as a road for its entire length.

Final Decision: Designate a 7,600-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The area appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

All the comments support the proposed decision with the exception of a statement that the boundary between unit 3-75 and 3-74 is a way. This boundary road provides access to the Spring Creek Ranch. It has been constructed and is regularly used and maintained.

Unit Number: 3-77

Unit Name: Honeycombs

Subunits: During the intensive inventory two roads in the vicinity of Road Canyon were identified, creating three subunits (A-43,700 acres, B-12,500 acres and C-920 acres). The revised acreage figures are a result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. Subunit C does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. It is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-77A

Description

Size: 43,700 acres.

Location: The subunit is located nine miles south of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the west by Bureau of Reclamation land and by roads on the remainder. Dead-end roads are located on Steamboat Ridge, in Craig Gulch, Shadscale Flat, Shadscale Gulch and north of Sheephead Basin.

Physical Characteristics: The most unique and striking physical features of the subunit are the geologic formations of eroded and weathered volcanic tuffs in Leslie Gulch, Carlton Canyon and the Honeycombs area. Many rugged breaks draining into Owyhee Reservoir dissect the area into extremely rough broken terrain. Major canyons include Iron Mountain, Painted, Carlton, Three Fingers, and Craig. Other prominent features include Steamboat Ridge, Shadscale Flat, Saddle Butte, Juniper Ridge, Sheephead Basin, Iron Mountain and many gulches. Vegetation is a sagebrush community grading into a salt desert shrub community in the south. There are a few scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include a 2,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding and two miles of buried pipeline in the northeast; approximately ten to 15 disturbed mining areas mainly along the east boundary; 15 to 20 miles of ways in the mining areas and the Road Canyon/Iron Mountain area; eight miles of fence in the northeast and on Steamboat Ridge; three horse traps; and three reservoirs dispersed along the east boundary.

The seeding and the pipeline located within the seeding are substantially noticeable due to the obvious rows of crested wheatgrass and the well defined linear contrast in vegetation along the edges.

The mining claims with visible ground disturbance are small, spread out, and screened by the topography. As a result,they are substantially unnoticeable.

The ways are substantially unnoticeable since they are screened by topography, are not concentrated, or are not well established.

The fences, horse traps and reservoirs either blend into the natural landscape or are screened by topography and vegetation. They are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The area east of the Craig Gulch and Steamboat Ridge roads is isolated from the rest of the subunit by a narrow one-quarter-mile wide neck situated on an exposed open slope. There is little opportunity for solitude through the narrow neck or in the small 3,500 acre area to the east. The area lacks vegetative screening and significant topographic screening.

The rolling hills and shallow ravines are exposed to at least one of the boundaries. The remainder of the subunit has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the diverse topography and its large size.

Recreation: The 3,500-acre area which lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude also lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area consists of rolling sagebrush hills with no unique or interesting attractions. It is small and all of it is within view of at least one road. The remainder of the subunit possesses outstanding opportunities due to the unique geologic formations, exceptional scenic vistas and unusual and exciting wildlife.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include the geologic formations, scenic vistas, bighorn sheep, wild horses, and rare or endangered plants associated with volcanic ash soils.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 36,500-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 5,500 acres which do not possess wilderness characteristics.

Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 3-77B

Description

Size: 12,500 acres of public land. One 40-acre parcel of private property is located in the southeast.

Location: The subunit is located three miles south of Owyhee Dam.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded on the north and west by Bureau of Reclamation land and by roads on the remainder. An interior dead-end road leads to a developed spring in Wild Horse Basin.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is comprised of several prominent drainages connecting the north end of Owyhee Ridge to Owyhee Reservoir. They include Birch, Indian, Deer, Wild Horse and Cherry Creek drainages. Vegetation is mainly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimun size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include three reservoirs, two wildlife water guzzlers, two developed springs, a horse trap, two miles of fence and five miles of ways. All of them are substantially unnoticeable due to their minor impact upon the natural landscape and the topographic screening.

Solitude: Despite the subunit's small size and the absence of vegetative screening, the extremely broken topography provides many opportunities for seclusion.

Recreation: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, sightseeing and hunting. The opportunities are outstanding because of the area's unique and diverse terrain.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include wild horses, scenery, and opportunities to study geological features.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 12,000-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for All Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision. One of the fourteen suggests that all of the unit be identified as a WSA. Another suggests that the south boundary road is actually a way. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no mention of the proposed decision to identify two WSA's.

Five comments oppose all or parts of the proposed decision. Two argue that the unit is not essentially natural because the reservoirs and private lands within the unit are substantially noticeable. Two comments oppose the identification of Subunit 3-77A as a WSA and provide information about possible roads within the subunit. One comment opposes the proposal concerning Subunit 3-77B, also because of roads.

Final Decision: Designate 38,200 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 5,500 acres of Subunit A. Designate all 12,500 acres of Subunit B as a wilderness study area. Eliminate all of Subunit C. A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreages.

Rationale: The areas designated as wilderness study areas (a portion of Subunit A and all of Subunit B) generally appear to be natural and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The areas eliminated in Subunit A include 2,000 acres which do not appear to be generally natural and 3,500 acres extending out from the rest of the unit which do not offer any outstanding solitude or primitive recreation opportunities. Subunit C does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Three comments identified additional roads within both Subunits A and B. The routes leading to a developed spring in Shadscale Gulch and to a horse trap north of Sheephead Basin in Subunit A and to a developed spring in Wild Horse Basin in Subunit B meet the road definition. The route leading to a developed spring in Sheephead Basin does not meet the road definition and is a way.

A comment stated the south boundary is a way. The south boundary of Subunit A is the Leslie Gulch road, a major access to Owyhee Reservoir, easily meeting the road definition. The south boundary of Subunit B is a route to Owyhee Reservoir in Road Canyon. It also meets the road definition.

A comment objects to the private property and reservoirs within the unit. The 40-acre private parcel within Subunit B is not included as part of the WSA. The presence of private property within WSAs will be considered during the study phase. See the introduction to this report for a further discussion of this issue. The reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable because they are small and well screened.

A comment stated the entire Subunit A should be a WSA. Only those areas which meet the minimum wilderness characteristics in the inventory are designated wilderness study areas. The portions of Subunit A eliminated do not possess the required characteristics.

All the other comments support the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-79

Unit Name: Mahogany Mountain

Subunits: This unit contains 10,600 acres. A road identified during the intensive inventory divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit B contains 100 acres and does not meet any of the size criteria; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-79A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 10,500 acres of public land.

Location: The subunit is one mile southwest of Rockville.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by a BLM road and private land, on the west by private land, and on the south and east by county roads. Two dead-end roads penetrate the subunit from the south boundary for about one-quarter mile each.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains the east ridge of Mahogany Mountain. The tallest point is near 6000 feet, the lowest near 3900 feet. The area is mainly steep-sided, flat-topped ridges. A deep canyon in the unit's center contains Carter Creek. The vegetation is mountain mahogany, aspen, willows, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A 1,700-acre crested wheatgrass seeding is located along the east boundary. Situated upon rolling, open county, this 1970 plowed and drilled project is substantially noticeable due to the color contrast, the linear drill rows and surrounding ways and fencelines.

The subunit contains four developed springs, all of which have access ways. The ways are hidden enough by the terrain and the springs are small enough to be substantially unnoticeable.

Approximately 17 miles of fence line cross the unit, two miles of which are bladed. None of them are substantially noticeable because they are screened by the terrain.

Approximately 11 miles of ways cut through the fringes of the unit. A few extend along the east boundary through the seeded area. A 1,240-acre area in the northeast corner contains a concentration of substantially noticeable ways. Another cluster of ways in a 980-acres area in the northwestcorner parallel each other, cross and follow fencelines, and are substantially noticeable.

The areas with the substantially noticeable ways and seeding in the northeast and northwest corners contain a total of 6,880 acres.

Solitude: The part of the unit which remains in a generally natural condition is shaped like the letter "P". The narrow western neck averages a half-mile wide and three miles long. It offers a certain degree of solitude due to the diverse terrain and some vegetative cover, but it is too narrow for the opportunities to be considered outstanding.

The rest of the area which remains in a natural condition is approximately two and one-half miles square. The terrain consists of one large hill in the center with the Carter Creek canyon on the west and a tributary of Spring Creek on the east. There is little vegetative cover except in Carter Creek canyon. The expansive open slopes do not contain secluded sites and do not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid others and to achieve solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photograghy, and sightseeing. However, the subunit can be crossed in two hours in any direction and is too small for extensive touring. The single attractive feature, Carter Creek canyon, is only two miles long. Although heavily wooded, it is narrow and fairly short. This would confine visitor use to a limited number of secluded sites. Photography and sight seeing are limited by the lack of unusual features. Hunting is below average due to a lack of vegetative screening. The hiking and riding activities are limited by the area's small size and lack of challenge. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Supplemental Values: Carter Creek canyon offers zoological and botanical educational opportunities. Dogwood, willow, choke cherry, roses, moss and currents grow in the canyon. Animals in the canyon include deer, warblers, tailed towhees, raptors, and the Weidemeyers Admirals butterfly, whose distribution in Oregon is limited.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision, and two argue that the unit should be a WSA. One suggests a re-evaluation of the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the natural portions of the unit. The other suggests that the unnatural scars from ways and seedings will heal and that the unit should be a WSA because of the variety of vegetation.

Final Decision: Eliminate both the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of the seeded area along the eastern boundary and the intruded northeast and northwest corners, Subunit A appears to be generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. However, the natural portions of Subunit A do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

A comment stated that the primary scars of man are ways and seeded acreage which will heal in time. The 10-15 miles of ways and bladed fencelines are concentrated in certain portions of the unit and are substantially noticeable. They provide access to various developed range projects. However, as the comment stated if there was no use on these ways for a period of several years they would revegetate to a substantially unnoticeable condition. The 1,700 acres crested wheatgrass seeding is also substantially noticeable. Over a period of years there is some encroachment of other vegetation into the seeding. This varies from site to site. Some seedings after years are still relatively pure crested wheatgrass. Others have been invaded noticeably by other vegetative species. It is the Bureau's expressed intent in its existing planning documents to maintain the seedings in crested wheatgrass for intensive livestock grazing. The main reason the majority of the unit was eliminated was not because of the imprints of man but because of a lack of outstanding solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

Another comment stated that the Bureau should reconsider its belief that the natural portion does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. A reevaluation of the unit indicates an absence of an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the narrow configuration in the western portion of the unit and a lack of vegetation on the rounded open eastern slopes of the unit. Primitive recreation is not considered outstanding because of an absence of any unusual or unique features or attractions within the unit.

Two comments were received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-80

Unit Name: Mud Flat

Description

Size: 8,760 acres.

Location: Three miles southwest of the south end of Owyhee Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by a BLM road, to the south by private property, to the west by private property and State property, and to the north by a road.

Physical Characteristics: This unit lies in the center of the Owyhee Breaks. The unit is basically a hillside between state and private property above the rim and private property at the bottom. The east-facing hillside is deeply eroded into steep ravines and ridges with open slopes. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one fenceline that crosses the unit parallel to the western boundary. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is above the unit's rim and out of view.

Solitude: The unit is three miles wide and four miles long. A one-quarter-mile wide arm extends out above the rim into a flat area. There is virtually no vegetative screening anywhere in the unit. The topographic diversity does not provide isolated, secluded areas. All drainages face the same direction. As a result, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, photograph, and sightsee in this unit. The hiking is limited to a ten percent grade, with contouring extremely difficult or impossible. The unit can be crossed in a matter of hours. There are no level areas along the ridges or drainage bottoms to serve as secluded sights. Photography and sightseeing are restricted to subjects that are off the unit. The opportunity for primitive recreation is not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental value is the scenic vistas of features out of the unit. These features are the Owyhee River and Reservoir, the Owyhee Range, Red Butte, Dry Creek Buttes, and the Owyhee Breaks.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received and they all concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially noticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-82

Unit Name: Washboard Reservoir

Description

Size: 7,040 acres.

Location: The unit is 20 miles due south of Harper Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and east by BLM roads and by another road to the west and south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is basically a gentle slope from north to south, down to Hurley Flat. This slope has been eroded to form several hills at the north end with one small rimrock outcrop and consequent semi-parallel draws down to the flat. Vegetation on these slopes consists of sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are five reservoirs in the unit. They are scattered around the unit, one along each boundary and two along the east boundary. They are at the bottom of draws at the unit's boundaries and rolling hills obscures them from view. They are substantially unnoticeable. The unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the lack of diverse terrain and absence of vegetative screening, and the unit's relatively small size. Although the shape is an oval, the unit offers only a one-mile trek to its center. It is only two miles by four miles in size. Because of the lack of topographic relief, one can view the entire unit from the north end. These factors minimize the opportunities of a user to avoid the presence of other users.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and photography within this unit. These opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of diverse and interesting terrain. The unit offers no challenge. The small size limits enjoyable hiking to less than one hour. Horseback riding is even further confined. The open terrain offers a small carrying capacity for game. Photography is limited by a lack of pronounced subjects.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received and they all concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All comments received supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-100

Unit Name: Duck Pond

Subunits: The unit contains 19,780 acres. Several roads were identified inside the unit during the intensive inventory, dividing the unit into five subunits. Four of the subunits are less than 5,000 acres (Subunit B-3,840; Subunit C-2,760; Subunit D-1,480; and Subunit E-120) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-100A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 11,580 acres of public land. There are three inholdings of private property totalling 120 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Warm Springs Reservoir.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private property and roads. Three dead-end roads enter the unit; their total length is approximately four miles.

Physical Characteristics: The north-south crest of the Stockade Mountains disects the center of the northern two-thirds of the unit. This prominent ridge then traverses the western boundary of the southern one-third of the unit. Gently rolling slopes with shallow ravines and small canyons connect the high ridge line to the east and west boundaries. Vegetation is predominantly low to medium high sagebrush with native grasses and scattered juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Because of the cumulative effect of 13 reservoirs with over ten miles of associated ways, a 2,500-acre brush control area and over seven miles of fenceline, the subunit does not appear generally natural.

Solitude: The subunit is approximately eight miles long and varies in width from one-half to four miles. The scattered junipers, the low to medium high brush, and the gently rolling, open slopes provide few opportunities to find solitude from other visitors.

Recreation: Deer hunting is the major recreational use of the area. However, due to small game populations, hunting is not outstanding. No other primitive recreation opportunities are outstanding in the unit because the terrain offers little challenge and contains few interesting features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, nor does it offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. All of the other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria. A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-105

Unit Name: Piute

Description

Size: The unit contains 9,400 acres, including 640 acres of state land presently in the process of being acquired. There are two private inholdings totalling 120 acres.

Location: Three miles north of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the south by state exchange land and private property, to the west and east by private property, and to the north by an alternating pattern of private property and a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of one large hill and five drainages running toward Turnbull Lake. One of the drainages contains rimrock. None are deep. The east half of the unit contains open, grassy hillsides of bunchgrass. Juniper, larkspur, and grasses grow in deeper ravines in the west half. A tall hill in the center is covered with juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are two reservoirs and two developed springs in the unit. The springs are at the east end, behind a hillside, and out of view. One reservoir is in the center and one is in the west end; both are in ravines and are substantially unnoticeable. Ways lead to both reservoirs from the north border. Another way cuts through the unit's center in a north-south direction. The ways are substantially unnoticeable because of the vegetative screening. A substantially noticeable fenceline cuts across the eastern end of the unit. The fenceline is bladed and is across open terrain. With the exception of the fenceline, the unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: The terrain is diverse but does not provide outstanding opportunities to avoid others. The size and shape of the unit restrict the opportunity for solitude. The unit is only one mile wide, except at the west end, where the dimensions are two miles by three miles. Despite considerable vegetative screening in the west end this portion is too small to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The east portion is small, narrow, open and not conducive to an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, and sightseeing. The opportunities for hiking and backpacking are not outstanding because the unit is too small. The area is very popular for deer hunting. Horseback riding would be very enjoyable in this unit. The terrain is rolling and there is ample water and pasture, but the unit is too small for overnight treks. Sightseeing would include views out of the unit of the Sheepsheads, Trout Creeks, the distant Owyhees, Saddle Butte, and part of the Steens. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The area contains cultural and archaeological sites. There are no other known supplemental values.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it, suggesting that the remote location and sparse surrounding population result in outstanding opportunities for solitude within the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable with the exception of the bladed fenceline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated that the remote location and sparse surrounding population provide the necessary solitude. The Bureau's evaluation of solitude depends entirely upon the opportunity that an individual has to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the same unit. The determining factors are the size and shape of the unit and the amount of topographic and vegetative screening present within the unit.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-107

Unit Name: Obenchain

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-107 contains 6,700 acres. Roads identified within the unit when the intensive inventory field work was conducted divided the unit into three subunits. Two of the subunits are less then 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria (220 and 180 acres). They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-107A

Description

Size: 6,300 acres.

Location: 18 miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded to the east and south by constructed fenceline roads and to the west by a BLM road. The northern boundary is defined by land soon to be acquired by the State in the Stockade State Land Exchange.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of old lava flows and desert flats with sagebrush and grass. There are occasional small hills and several playas.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The only intrusions within the unit are one pit reservoir and one well along the west boundary. The reservoir is substantially unnoticeable because it is hidden in a depression. The well is a minor intrusion which blends into a nearby slope and is hardly noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit is only two and one-half miles wide and four miles long over flat terrain. Confined in such a small area of sagebrush flats one cannot find an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities to backpack, camp, horseback ride, and photograph in this area, but none are outstanding due to the uniform terrain and relatively small size of the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All of the other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria. A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Name: Turnbull Peak

Unit Number: 3-108

Description

Size: The unit contains 13,240 acres, including 120 acres of State land presently in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is immediately west of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the southwest by State Highway 78, to the northwest by state and private land and a county road, to the east by a BLM road, and to the south by a county road.

Physical Characteristics: There are a few small lava beds in the south end of the unit. North of the lava beds are rolling hills of two to three hundred feet, with occasional rimrock. The vegetation is sage and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A substantially noticeable powerline is adjacent to the southwest boundary. The tall poles can be seen from throughout the generally flat, northwest portion of the unit.

A substantially unnoticeable bladed fenceline extends across the southeast portion of the unit. It has been largely overgrown with vegetation.

Five reservoirs are located in the north half. Two are near the unit's boundaries. All are substantially unnoticeable because of the diverse terrain. A substantially unnoticeable way winds through the hills in the northwest two-thirds of the unit. It connects most of the reservoirs. It is also hidden by the terrain.

The unit is apparently natural except for the powerline.

Solitude: The unit averages two and one-half miles in width and six miles in length. The unit offers virtually no vegetative screening and limited topographic screening. The slopes are largely gentle and open. The playas have only ankle high sage. Turnbull Peak is a steep-sided cone of slagrock. The drainages are wide V-shaped draws with little screening. As a result, there is a limited number of secluded areas. The opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Photographic opportunities are minimal. Sightseeing opportunities are limited to distant views of the Sheepsheads, Stockades, and Saddle Butte. Hiking and horseback riding opportunities are limited because of the small size of the unit. The opportunities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision. Three comments oppose the proposed decision and suggest that it does satisfy the requirements for identification as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of the powerline. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated the unit was natural and had plenty of solitude and primitive recreation. This comment provides no new information nor any specific reasons why the proposed decision is in error. A re-evaluation of the wilderness criteria confirms the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. Two comments supported a WSA but provided no reasons or any new information.

A comment supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-110

Unit Name: Lower Owyhee Canyon. This unit had previously been identified as Bull Creek. The name has been changed to better describe the area encompassed by the unit.

Description

Size: The unit contains 86,100 acres of public land, including 1,840 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The revised acreage figure is a result of recalculation using an electronic planimeter. There are eleven private inholdings. Six of them are 40-acre tracts, five in the northern end and one at the southern tip. There are three 120-acre tracts, one in the northern end and two in the unit's center. A 200-acre parcel is also located in the unit's center. A 640-acre tract is located in the north end.

Location: Ten miles northeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the north by State land by roads and private land on the east, by private land on the south, and by roads and private land on the west. A dead-end road leaves the east boundary and follows a diversion ditch to a dam on the river west of the Cutler Ranch, and a second dead-end road extends from the east boundary to the rim above the Owyhee River. A third dead-end road extends from the west boundary below Rye Grass Creek into a cow camp.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of approximately 30 miles of the Owyhee River and the adjoining rims. The north end includes a portion of the Owyhee Breaks called "The Hole in the Ground." The rims rise up to 1,400 feet above the river. Seven major drainages flow into the Owyhee in the unit. They are Juniper and Black Canyons, Jackson Creek, Fort Creek, Bogus Creek, Bull Creek, Ryegrass Creek, and Mud Creek. Large, rolling hills, such as those in "The Hole in the Ground", are located below the rim at the ends of the major drainages. The vegetation is sagebrush, bunchgrass, an occasional patch of juniper trees along the river, and crested wheatgrass seedings on top of the east rim.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 9,880 acres of crested wheatgrass seedings above the east rim. This vegetation manipulation is substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast and the plowed furrows. The project was planted in 1968.

Approximately nine miles of pipelines with adjacent ways extend through the seeding. They are substantially noticeable because the color and straight lines contrast with the surroundings. There are about ten miles of fence in the project area. They are substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast along them. Three reservoirs in this area are substantially noticeable because the dams are not screened from view in the flat terrain.

A cabin and corral are located at the end of a dead-end road south of Rye Grass Creek. These are substantially unnoticeable because they are tucked out of view in a small valley.

A worked mine is located on a high point in Chalk Basin, along the west boundary. It is substantially noticeable.

A reservoir above Bull Creek is substantially unnoticeable because it is isolated above the rim.

The Bogus Creek Ranch is not located within the unit boundaries, but it is substantially noticeable from within the Bogus Creek drainage because of the narrowness of the canyon. The ranch sits at the head of the canyon and would be visible to anyone on the north side of the creek.

Bogus Creek reservoir is located further up the creek. Since it is above the rim in a draw, it is hidden from view, and is substantially unnoticeable.

A fence across from the Fort Creek drainage is substantially noticeable because of the pasture contrast. The pasture contrast is subject to change with the amount and season of grazing use.

Two reservoirs along the Fort Creek drainage are substantially unnoticeable due to their small size and the screening of the terrain in the drainage bottom. Three reservoirs are located across the river in an area of rolling hills and broken rims. One is in a playa along the unit's boundary. They are substantially unnoticeable because the topography screens them from view.

To the northeast two miles of fence are located above Jackson Hole. The fence is substantially unnoticeable because it is screened by the same topography.

A small dam on the river downstream from Jackson Hole diverts water into a diversion ditch. The ditch parallels the river and takes water to the Cutler Ranch. The dam looks like a small rapid at high water. A small concrete wall at the entrance to the ditch extends into the bank. The ditch is small and is immediately adjacent to the river. The dam and canal are substantially unnoticeable.

Four reservoirs are located along the north border above the rim. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are isolated from the majority of the unit, they are small, and they are situated in shallow draws below a line-of-sight across the flats.

Except for the seeding on the east rim and the mine in Chalk Basin, the unit generally appears to be natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The majority of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are two portions that do not.

The first is the Bogus Creek drainage above the Bogus Creek Ranch. A rim extends through the center of the area. The half mile above and below the rim are exposed to the unit boundary. The neck of this narrow arm is about one-quarter mile wide, making it impossible to avoid the presence of others while passing the ranch.

The other portion is along the south boundary. It is almost surrounded by private land. A quarter-mile wide neck leads to an area of one square mile. This area is too small to allow one to avoid the presence of others.

The remainder of the unit is shaped like an elongated oval. It is 26 miles long and about five miles wide. There is little vegetative screening in the unit, but there is considerable topographic screening. There are many secluded sites in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, river running, photography, canoeing, kayaking, and sightseeing. All of the opportunities are outstanding because of the variety of terrain in the unit. There is a high degree of challenge on the water and along the canyon. Many attractive sites are located throughout the area.

The previously described section of the Bogus Creek drainage and the isolated area along the south boundary do not offer outstanding recreational opportunities due to their small size and the lack of attractive sites.

Supplemental Values: The canyon offers opportunities for geological and biological study. The unit also has outstanding scenery.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 37,600-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 12,910 acres from further review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Eighteen comments were received. Thirteen concur with the proposed decision. One of the thirteen suggests that the entire unit be a WSA. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no reference to the proposed decision to identify a WSA. One comment provides study phase information which does not pertain to the inventory decision. Three comments oppose the proposed decision. One of them identifies possible roads within the proposed WSA and two argue that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs and private lands within the unit are substantially noticeable.

Final Decision: Designate a 73,200-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 12,900 acres from further review because they lack wilderness characteristics. (A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage.)

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are the 9,880 acres of seedings above the east rim, the mined area along the west boundary, and the 640-acre section along the south boundary and the 2,380-acre Bogus Creek drainage that do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

The comment that suggests the entire unit should be a WSA is referring to those areas eliminated because they are not in a natural condition. The purpose of the inventory is to identify those areas that qualify for study. For the reasons listed in the narrative, these portions do not qualify. Therefore, they cannot be studied.

Another comment discusses the hydroelectric potential of the unit. This is a study consideration and will be analyzed during that phase.

Another comment mentioned a road to Sand Springs Cow Camp along the west boundary. This road was mistakenly identified as "below Riggins Creek" in the proposal summary narrative. It should have read "Rye Grass Creek." Originally it was a constructed loop road, but only the northern portion has been maintained and used. The portion through Sand Spring Draw no longer meets the road definition. This comment states that there are no solitude opportunities because there is "too much domestic activity such as pipeline maintainance [sic] hunting activity, caring for livestock, summer and winter." The area that includes the pipelines has been eliminated from review. Hunting without vehicles is allowed in wilderness. The effect of a possible wilderness designation on hunting and livestock management activities will be considered during the wilderness study. Two comments also state that there is no opportunity for primitive recreation within the unit. Field re-examination has found that the river sports, photography, hiking, scenic vistas, backpacking, and a myriad of other opportunities are indeed outstanding due to the diversity in terrain, interesting features, secluded sites, a high degree of challenge, available water and wildlife.

The two comments that mention the reservoirs within the unit state that they are substantially noticeable. Field re-examination found that all the reservoirs within the WSA are effectively hidden by the terrain and are substantially unnoticeable. The comments also mention that there is private property within the unit. It is true that 1,440 acres of private land are scattered within the unit. Possible effects of these private inholdings on the viability of wilderness management of the area will be considered during the wilderness study. See the introduction to this report for a further discussion of the issue of inliers of privately owned land surrounded by study areas.

Unit Number: 3-111

Unit Name: Saddle Butte

Description

Size: 87,500 acres (a more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage).

Location: This unit is 11 miles north of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the south by BLM roads, to the east by a county road, to the north by private property, a BLM road, and the State Stockade Land Exchange, and to the west by a BLM road and a constructed fenceline road. A dead-end road enters the unit from the east boundary to provide access to an interior horsetrap.

Physical Characteristics: The area is flat country with lava breaks, caves, and lava tubes. Expansive sagebrush flats are interrupted by playas, spring-fed sinks and three drainages. The vegetation is cheatgrass, sage, and bunchgrass. The lava flow extends across the center of the unit, covering one-third of the total acreage. Saddle Butte is not within the unit's boundaries.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is a reservoir in the northeast panhandle, along Bull Creek. It is located at the base of a rim, in a draw concealed from view from the surrounding flatlands; it is substantially unnoticeable. Three water guzzlers are scattered throughout the unit. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are small and are easily hidden by the lava mounds.

A substantially unnoticeable horse trap is located near the middle of the unit. It consists only of rockjacks.

The former boundary between Units 3-111 and 3-107/3-109 is a way which is hidden even by the short sage and is substantially unnoticeable. As it climbs over low rises the only clue to its presence is a slight color contrast in the vegetation.

The former boundary between Units 3-111 and 3-108 was bladed but is no longer used. This way has fallen into disrepair and vegetation is reclaiming it.

A short dead-end way extends from below Saddle Butte to the guzzler along the north boundary. It is faint enough to be unlocateable on the ground. A slight difference in color of the vegetation is the only evidence visible from an aircraft.

The former northeast boundary is a fire trail cut by a tractor during a 1963 fire on Saddle Butte. It has since seen little use and no maintenance, and is completely overgrown in some places and nearly so along the remainder. As a result, it is substantially unnoticeable.

A final way extends from the west boundary in the northern panhandle to the reservoir along Bull Creek. It is hidden on the flat terrain by sagebrush. It remains substantially unnoticeable.

The unit appears to be generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The unit's vast size, diverse terrain and triangular shape contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The large number of ravines and hills provide isolated locations which are spread evenly enough to distribute use.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for spelunking, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography and sightseeing. The hiking and riding activities are enhanced by the number of attractions in the unit and the screening provided by the lava flows, which also creates an "alien world" perspective. Caves and lava tubes in the lava flow provide opportunities for spelunking. There are ample subjects to photograph and sightsee.

Supplemental Values: The area contains a geologically young lava flow in a desert environment with salt desert shrub plant communities. Padiocactus Simpson, Robustar, on the Oregon provisional list of endangered and threatened plants, grows in the area. The lava features are typical of extrusive basalt flows, including flow channels, tubes, caves, and dome extrusions. The area also contains many wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 87,580-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision. One of them suggests that the entire unit be a WSA. Another requests that a particular way be excluded from the WSA in order to maintain access to some caves. Another raises a question about revising the western boundary in order to provide access to the caves.

Two comments oppose the proposed decision, arguing that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable. One comment provides study phase information without reference to the proposed inventory decision. Two comments are ambiguous in their response to the proposed decision. One of them identifies a possible road in the western portion of the unit and argues that the boundary should be east of that track. It goes on to say that the unit has wilderness characteristics to some extent, but suggests that the unit offers solitude only because few people go there and that lack of water limits recreational opportunities. This comment and the other seem to indicate a preference for some form of non-wilderness use that would protect geologic and archaeological values.

Final Decision: Designate a 87,500-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprint of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Twelve comments support the proposed decision. One of these states the entire area should be a WSA. The entire area is a WSA.

Three comments are concerned about access to the caves over a way from the west boundary. Since this route does not qualify as a road it is classified as a way during the inventory. During the study phase of the wilderness review process the need for access over this way and other conflicts with a possible wilderness designation will be identified and analyzed. Continued use of the way is permissible under interim management.

A comment stated the western boundary should be moved to a road which used to be a wagon route. An examination of the 1887 Government Land Office maps and a publication titled, Maps of Historical Oregon shows a junction of several wagon routes to the west of the unit but no wagon routes or military roads passing through the unit. The west boundary of the unit is a road, and it would not be appropriate to move the boundary farther west.

A comment stated the area should be designated an outstanding natural area or geologic area rather than wilderness. These are some of the alternatives that will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

A comment stated that the reservoir and three water developments make the unit appear unnatural. Because of the small size of the intrusions and their minor impact and because of the large size of the unit and screening around the developments they are substantially unnoticeable.

Unit Number: 3-112

Unit Name: Scott's Butte

Description

Size: The unit contains 46,130 acres, including 2,920 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is located immediately north of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the west by Highway 78 and to the south by Highway 95. The southeast is bounded by private property and the northeast by a county road. The northwest is bordered by a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The area is flat to rolling with lava outcrops. Scott's Butte is the only prominent topographic feature; it rises in the southeast corner. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and bunchgrasses in a salt desert plant community.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are about 13 miles of substantially unnoticeable ways screened by topography and vegetation. The only other intrusion is the BLM fire station in the southwest corner. This includes almost two miles of airstrip. The fire station is enclosed by fence. The remainder of the unit appears generally natural.

Solitude: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It is flat with virtually no vegetative screening. Due to its size, there is an opportunity to find solitude, but it is not outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for horseback riding and backpacking in this unit. Neither is outstanding due to lack of challenge, diversity, and interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The area is known primarily for its large wild horse population. The area contains a typical salt desert plant community, which is some of the northernmost salt desert community in the Pacific Northwest.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of them suggests excluding the airstrip and fire station and identifying the remainder as a WSA. It argues that the size of the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and that the opportunity to observe wild horses in a natural setting is outstanding. The other suggests combining this unit with many others in the Owyhee Basin to form one large WSA. Most of the other units mentioned are not contiguous with Unit 3-112.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the works of man generally unnoticeable except for the fire station and airstrip at Burns Junction. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated that there isn't a lot of vegetative screening but the size offers good solitude and the opportunities to observe the feral horses in a primitive and natural environment is outstanding. The size of the unit (46,000 acres) may provide "good" solitude, but we continue to believe the opportunities are not outstanding. The single factor of size in this case does not compensate for the lack of vegetative and topographic screening. While there are feral horses in this unit other areas provide better opportunities for observing them.

A comment stated the unit should be included as part of the "Owyhee Country cluster WSA" because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-112 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual roadless area to qualify for further review.

A comment supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-113

Unit Name: Rye Grass

Description

Size: The unit contains 21,300 acres of public land, including 1,120 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is nine miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the west by State Highway 78, to the north by private property and a county road, to the east by a county road, and to the south by a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is rolling to flat. Most of the unit is covered by the Saddle Butte lava flow. The vegetation is cheatgrass, sage, and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There is one reservoir in the southern tip of the unit. A way penetrates the unit from the northeast corner and another enters from the west side. This western way includes a loop and a couple of deadend branches. The reservoirs and ways are substantially unnoticeable because the mounds of lava screening them from view.

Materials for road construction were quarried along Highway 78. The blade scars and rock piles are substantially noticeable because of the color contrast of the exposed soil. Except for the material sites, the unit is apparently natural.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening and very little topographic screening in the unit. The lava mounds and flows provide some topographic screening. The unit is eight miles long and four miles wide and is oval shaped. It rises from west to east. This exposes most of the unit to view from the east boundary. The lava flow in this unit does not offer enough screening, isolated locations, or secluded draws to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and photography in the unit. None of them are outstanding because the rocky terrain hampers riding. There is little topographic relief and there are few points of interest.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental values are numerous sheepherder monuments and opportunities to study of the geology of the lava flow.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests combining Unit 3-113 with many others in the Owyhee Basin to form one large WSA which would have outstanding opportunities. Most of the other units mentioned are not contiguous with Unit 3-113.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, except for the material sites. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment stated the unit should be included as part of the "Owyhee Country cluster WSA" because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-113 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

A comment supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-114

Unit Name: Palomino Hills

Revision of Unit Boundary: The acreage of Unit 3-114 was reported as 54,900 acres in the report on the proposed intensive inventory decision. Portions of three highway material site right-of-ways along State Highway 78 were incorrectly included in the unit. The unit boundaries reflected in this final decision exclude the three material sites.

Description

Size: The unit contains 54,700 acres of public land, including 3,840 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Four miles northwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the east by State Highway 78 and the on other sides by BLM roads. In three locations the boundary follows private property for a short distance. A dead-end road penetrates the unit in the southeast corner for approximately two and one-half miles.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain includes a lava flow, large rolling hills with occasional small rimrock outcrops, open flats, playas in the northwest, a deep canyon along Palomino Creek, and several shallower drainages. All the drainages flow east. The north quarter of the unit consists largely of the Saddle Butte lava flow. The east half of the unit slopes down to a lava flow and Highway 78 on the east. Vegetation is chiefly sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include 14 reservoirs and about 23 miles of ways. They are substantially unnoticeable because the terrain screens them and they are scattered throughout the unit. Fourteen borrow pits located immediately adjacent to Highway 78 are noticeable. Portions of some of the pits are outside the highway right-of-way. The distance of the pits from the highway centerline ranges from 200 to 800 feet. The rest of the unit appears to be substantially free of the works of man.

Solitude: The hills, Palomino Canyon, the other drainages, and the lava flow offer outstanding opportunities for solitude in the western two-thirds of the unit. Persons traversing the flow and the drainages would be screened from other users.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, exploration of the lava formations and the playas formed where drainages enter the flows, and photography of scenery and several species of wildlife and wildflowers. The opportunities for these activities are not exceptional nor is the variety of available activities. Few unique features or attractive sites are present. As a result the unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: The lava flows may contain features of educational or scientific value; none have been inventoried to date.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision announced in March 1980 was to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review. It was believed at that time that the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

Summary of Public Comments: Approximately fifty-six comments were received. The exact number may vary slightly because many comments on this unit were sent to one or two district offices and/or the State Office. One comment supports the proposed decision. Most of the 55 comments which oppose the proposed decision urge that Unit 3-114 be combined with Unit 2-72 to form a large WSA for the Sheepshead Mountains. Detailed information is provided in one of the comments to support the contention that the boundary road between Units 2-72 and 3-114 is not a road. Some of the comments assert that there are outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, especially in the western portion of the unit. Many of the comments imply that if the unit and subunit boundary roads in Unit 3-114 and 2-72 are redefined as ways, the resulting combined unit of over 200,000 acres would offer unquestionably outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Designate a 54,700-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate the borrow pits along Highway 78 from further wilderness review because they are substantially noticeable.

Rationale: The proposed decision to eliminate the unit from further wilderness review was based on the premise that it did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. This evaluation was reconsidered after public comments were evaluated and the unit was reexamined. On that basis, it is now concluded that the unit does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. We continue to believe it does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. The reasons for this decision are explained above in the "Wilderness Characteristics" section. Except for the borrow pits along the highway, the unit appears to be substantially free of the works of man.

Several comments stated that the boundary between this unit and Unit 2-72C is not a road and the two units should be merged. The route is on the district transportation plan and is part of a system used regularly and continuously to manage public lands in the Sheepshead.

The portion of the route between the two units traverses gentle terrain, including two playas. As is the case on some other roads on public lands, this portion has not required maintenance in recent years to insure continued use. However, maintenance has been required at both ends of this portion (from Rock Corral to the southeast and along Rye Grass Creek), and maintenance would be performed on this portion if the need arose.

The announcement of the proposed decision stated that roads were identified which had the effect of deleting from 1,400 acres Unit 3-114 and adding them to Unit 2-72. A comment stated that this was not documented in the unit case file and that pictures of the roads were not provided. Pictures of this segment are filed in the case files for Units 3-114 and 2-72.

Unit Number: 3-116

Unit Name: Flat Top Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 16,100 acres of public land, including 520 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired. There are two parcels of private land totalling 120 acres.

Location: Four miles southwest of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is surrounded by BLM roads. A portion of the southern boundary is along private property.

Physical Characteristics: Flattop Mountain is a rimrocked mesa located in the southern portion of the unit. The remainder of the terrain is rolling hills. The hills are covered with sagebrush, bunchgrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Within the unit are two and one-third miles of fence, four miles of ways, and a reservoir. The fence and reservoir are along the west boundary. One way cuts across the north end and another penetrates the unit to Flat Top Mountain from the south end. A U.S.G.S. triangulation site with a small monument is located on Flat Top Mountain.

All the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills.

Solitude: The unit is oval-shaped, measuring eight miles long and three miles wide. The size and shape of the unit would contribute to opportunities to isolate oneself from others. However, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the lack of secluded locations. The lack of vegetative screening and topographic diversity limit the opportunity for solitude to only a few places.

Recreation: The area offers an opportunity for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. These opportunities are not outstanding because the unit provides little to no challenge or interest. The area is not scenic. The unit is too small for touring lasting over two days.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment appears to argue that the opportunities for recreation are outstanding.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment discussed the USGS triangulation site and also stated that there are several wilderness areas which are too small for touring lasting over two days. The triangulation site was determined to be substantially unnoticeable and not a part of the reason the unit was proposed to be eliminated. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation not only because of the limited touring opportunities, but also because of the limited diversity, uniqueness and points of interest.

A comment supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-118

Unit Name: Bowden Hills

Subunits: The unit contains 63,360 acres of public land. The revised acreage figure is the result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (120, 80, and 60 acres respectively). None of these three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-118A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 63,100 acres, including 4,200 acres of State exchange land in the process of being acquired. (A more accurate calculation of the subunit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage).

Location: The unit is nine miles north of Blue Mountain Pass.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and east by county roads. There is one small private property boundary in the northeast corner. The south is bounded by a BLM road. The west is bounded by a state highway and a county road. A deadend road enters the unit from the north boundary and penetrates to its center.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is covered with sagebrush, bunchgrass and crested wheatgrass. The terrain is high, rolling hills with some rimrock. Most of the drainages run from the southeast to northwest.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 3,500 acres of seeded crested wheatgrass along the south and east sides. The projects are substantially noticeable because of the straight-lined furrows. There are two miles of pipelines in the seeded areas. A well and water tank are located along the north boundary and another well and water tank are located along the east boundary. Both developments are substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable fenceline and way border the east seeding and run north to the water tower and around it. The contrast along the edge of the seeding causes the fenceline to stand out. There are three reservoirs and one fenceline in the southwest portion of the unit. Two of the reservoirs are in depressions and are individually substantially unnoticeable. A third reservoir is visible from nearby hills and exhibits considerable scars. It is substantially noticeable. The fenceline was not bladed and is hidden by the rolling terrain. It is substantially unnoticeable.

There is a way that runs northwest from Corral Reservoir to the western boundary. It was not constructed. It is on a relatively flat terrain and is not visible from the immediate vicinity and is thus substantially unnoticeable. Two ways enter the unit from the north boundary. Both are short and hidden by the hills in this area, thus substantially unnoticeable. A short, once constructed, route enters from the east boundary, but is not maintained and receives little use. It is a substantially unnoticeable way, hidden by regrowth and terrain. A blade scar cuts across the southeast corner of the unit. It is in a ravine, follows a creekbed, and is mostly revegetated. It is substantially unnoticeable because of the lack of color contrast, topographic screening and vegetative regrowth.

Solitude: The hills, gullies and canyons provide numerous opportunities to achieve solitude and the size and square shape of the unit enhance the opportunities. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding.

Recreation: There is an opportunity to hike, backpack, hunt, horseback ride, photograph, and sightsee in the unit, but none of these are considered outstanding due to a lack of interesting features, diversity and challenge.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 50,800-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 4,100 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision. One of the nine suggests that the entire unit be a WSA. One comment supports the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit, but does not refer to the proposed WSA decision. One comment provides information about possible roads within the unit, but does not refer to the proposed decision. Two comments oppose the proposed decision, arguing that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable.

Final Decision: Designate a 59,000-acre wilderness study area. (The WSA acreage is different from that proposed in march 1980 because a more accurate measurement of the WSA's size was obtained with an electronic planimeter.) Eliminate 4,100 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics. Also eliminate subunits B, C, and D because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include 3,500 acres of substantially noticeable seedings along the east and south boundaries and a 600-acre area north of the eastern seeding. That area contains a way, a fenceline, a pipeline, and a water tower and trough, all of which are substantially noticeable. The study area boundary goes around the northern well and tank and along the fenceline way in the east to exclude the seeding and the water tower. Also excluded is Corral Reservoir. The boundary excludes its access way (parallel to the seeding fence) and the full extent of the excavation. The three smaller subunits do not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas.

One comment stated that the entire unit should be a WSA to allow for more detailed study. The purpose of the inventory is to identify those areas that qualify for study. The subunits are too small to meet any of the size criteria for study areas and are therefore eliminated from further review.

One comment provided information concerning two routes that were previously identified as ways. Field re-examination has confirmed that a road enters the unit from the north boundary and deadends at its center. A second route that enters the unit from the east was originally constructed but no longer meets the road definition due to lack of use and maintenance.

Two comments refer to the three reservoirs in the southwest corner, stating that they are "substantially noticeable". Big Bend Reservoir is a small, shallow excavation with little vegetative contrast. It holds little water and is in a ravine below the level and sight of the boundary road and cannot be seen from the surrounding, near-level terrain. Bad News Reservoir is surrounded by low hills that screen it from the flat terrain in each direction. It is also small, although the vegetative contrast is greater. Yet, due to the screening, it is substantially unnoticeable. Corral Reservoir, or Corral Pit, is a deep excavation dug into the center of a playa. The tailings were piled on the south side, forming a large mound. This mound hides the pit from the boundary but frames it for view from the nearby foothills within the unit. The relatively larger water source has drawn livestock and wildlife to this immediate area which resulted in noticeable trails and trampling. Two ways approach this pit and a fenceline passes nearby. These factors combine to make this reservoir substantially noticeable.

Unit Number: 3-119 (Now part of 2-74F)

Unit Name: Barren Valley (Now "Alvord Desert")

Lands formerly in Unit 3-119 are now included in Subunit 2-74F. Please refer to the Burns section of this report for an explanation.

Unit Number: 3-120

Unit Name: Clarks Butte

Description

Size: 39,800 acres. The revised acreage figure is a result of recalculation using an electronic planimeter.

Location: 15 miles west of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south and east by private property and on the north and west by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a lava flow covered by sagebrush and native bunchgrass. Three distinct buttes--Clark, Lava and Saddle--are located in the area. Several playas are scattered throughout the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two portions of the unit do not appear to be generally natural. The northwest section has a 2,000-acre brush control project, three miles of bladed fenceline, one-quarter mile of pipeline, two troughs, three miles of fence, three reservoirs, and six miles of ways. A total of 4,800 acres do not appear to be generally natural because of the cumulative impact of the developments.

The southwest section has four miles of bladed fireline, four miles of fence, four reservoirs, and eight miles of ways. The cumulative effect of these intrusions is that 3,500 acres do not appear to be generally natural.

Throughout the remainder of the unit there are only three small reservoirs and three miles of fence. They are all substantially unnoticeable due to their minor effect on the natural landscape, their wide distribution over the large unit, and topographic screening.

Solitude: The unit's relatively large size, its box-like configuration, and the topographic screening provided by the broken lava fields and buttes provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The undistinguished terrain has few points of interest and little diversity; it does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values: The lava fields provide an opportunity for scientific study.

Proposed Decision: Designate 31,000 acres as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,300 acres from further study.

Summary of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision. One supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit, but does not refer to the proposed WSA decision. Two comments oppose the proposed decision, arguing that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable.

Final Decision: Designate 31,500 acres as a wilderness study area. (The WSA's acreage is different from that proposed in March 1980 because the size of the area was recalculated with an electronic planimeter.) Eliminate 8,300 acres from further study.

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Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area appears to be generally natural and offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area proposed for elimination does not possess wilderness characteristics. It does not appear to be generally natural with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Two comments state that the three reservoirs and two troughs are substantially noticeable. If the comments refer to the three reservoirs and two troughs eliminated they support the proposed decision. If they refer to the three reservoirs determined to be substantially unnoticeable and included as part of the WSA they oppose the proposed decision. A re-evaluation idicates the latter reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable because of the topographic screening, the large size of the unit and their minor impact.

All of the other comments agree with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-121

Unit Name: Deadman Creek

Description

Size: The unit contains 8,440 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The unit is six miles northwest of Turnbull Lake.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north by a road and private property, to the east and west by roads and to the south by the Stockade State Land Exchange.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of the Deadman Creek watershed. A large, rounded hill rises on the south border and rimrock extends west of the hill. The rest of the terrain is rolling hills. Vegetation is sagebrush and bunchgrass and numerous scattered juniper.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size requirements.

Naturalness: The unit contains seven reservoirs and one north-south fence. The fenceline is in the center of the unit. Four of the reservoirs are along the unit's boundaries, two on the east and two on the southwest. The remaining three are in the central portion of the unit. All are substantially unnoticeable due to the diverse terrain and vegetative screening.

Solitude: The opportunity for solitude in this unit is not outstanding. The vegetative screening provided by the scattered junipers and the topographic screening provided by the rolling terrain result in some solitude opportunities and a few secluded locations. However, the relatively small size of the unit and its narrow configuration result in the unit not offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, photography, and sightseeing. The touring activities are limited because of the small size of the unit. There are no unique or unusual attractions in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 8,440-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Ten concur with the proposed decision. One comment discusses supplemental values without making any specific reference to the decision. Four comments oppose the proposed decision. Two argue that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable. One discusses the human developments and an adjacent sage spraying as distractions from naturalness and suggests that the unit is too small to have outstanding opportunities for solitude and not special enough to be outstanding for recreation. The fourth comment opposes wilderness use in favor of vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed decision to designate the unit as a WSA was changed because the unit, as pointed out in public comments, does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

Ten comments oppose the unit being eliminated from further review. These comments do not provide substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Several comments restate the Bureau's published information providing no new data to support or change a decision.

A comment stated the unit was unnatural because of the reservoirs. The majority of the reservoirs are either small or well screened resulting in them being substantially unnoticeable.

A comment mentioned vehicle access and multiple use management considerations. These are study considerations which would have been analyzed in the wilderness study if the unit had been designated a study area.

Unit Number: 3-124

Unit Name: Bogus Rim

Subunits: Unit 3-124 contains 5,680 acres. During the intensive inventory field work, a road was identified which loops into the unit along the south boundary. This created a 20-acre subunit that does not meet any of the size criteria and is not mentioned below.

Subunit Number: 3-124A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 5,660 acres of public land.

Location: The subunit is located 18 miles northeast of Rome.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads. A dead-end road extends into the subunit about one-quarter of a mile.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of subunit is a plateau above the Bogus Creek Rim. The rim is along the west, south, and east boundaries. The north boundary cuts across a plateau sloping towards The Hole in the Ground. Several shallow, intermittent streams drain the table in a radial pattern from the unit's center. A few small hills are located in the center of the unit. The vegetation is cheatgrass, sagebrush, and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A small reservoir is located near the subunit's center, in a shallow depression. It is below the line-of-sight from the surrounding terrain and is substantially unnoticeable. An access way to the reservoir has been largely overgown and is now substantially unnoticeable.

About two miles of fenceline cross the unit, ending at the rim. One comes up the rim to cross the southwest corner of the table and stops. Due to their short lengths and situation below the rim, they are substantially unnoticeable.

In the northeast corner of the unit, a pipeline and its construction/maintenance road enter the unit and end at a water tower about one-quarter mile into the unit. They are substantially noticeable due to their unnatural linear contrast, the height of the tower, and the scars from their construction. A way extends south from this area into the table and dwindles away as cattle and horse trails. Due to its lack of use and consequent revegetation, it is substantially unnoticeable.

The 1956 Mud Flat brush control project crosses the subunit's boundary along the west side. It covers 400 acres of the slopes below the rim. It is still substantially noticeable due to the vegetation contrast.

Solitude: The unit is roughly egg-shaped, two miles wide by three miles long. There is virtually no vegetative screening. The sagebrush is, at most, waist high. There is enough topographic screening by the surrounding rim to restrict the view across the unit from the boundaries. However, the majority of the unit is a sagebrush flat which offers no topographic screening. Lacking pronounced features, secluded sites, and a large acreage, this unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: There is an opportunity for hiking, horseback riding, hunting and photography in this unit. The unit is too small for extensive touring; the small sage flat can be crossed in two hours on foot. There are no attractive sites. Hunting would be limited by the small carrying capacity and size. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: With the exception of the brush control project Subunit A appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subunit B does not meet any of the size criteria. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-127

Unit Name: Little Crater

Subunits: The unit contains 20,300 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road was identified in the unit, creating three subunits. Subunits B (2,360 acres) and C (360 acres) are less than 5,000 acres and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-127A

Description

Size: 17,580 acres.

Location: The subunit is located ten miles north of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded entirely by roads with the exception of private property on the south. Deadend roads penetrate the subunit for three miles along the pipeline to Little Crater Reservoir and to an unnamed reservoir along the east boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is a lava flow covered with sagebrush and native grasses. Over 60 percent of the subunit has been treated with either a brush control or crested wheatgrass seeding. West Crater, located in the east central portion of the area, is a prominent feature. Several playas are scattered throughout the subunit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions include nine miles of ways, three miles of pipeline, 12 miles of fence, seven reservoirs, and 10,000 acres of brush control and seedings. Given the size and topography of the subunit, the cumulative effect of the developments is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit lacks the topographic and vegetative screening and size necessary to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for recreation because it lacks diversity, challenge, and interesting features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It also does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the size criteria. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Name: Jordan Craters

Unit Number: 3-128

Subunits: The unit contains 31,130 acres. The revised acreage figure is the result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. Four roads within the unit were identified in the intensive inventory, creating six subunits. Subunits B through F are less than 5,000 acres (920, 640, 200, 120, and 50 acres, respectively) and do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area. They are not described below. Uppper and Lower Cow Lakes are under State jurisdiction and are excluded from the unit.

Subunit Number: 3-128A

Description.

Size: The subunit contains 29,200 acres of public land. An 80-acre parcel and a 120-acre parcel of private property are located within the subunit.

Location: 15 miles northwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded primarily by State and private land on the east and roads on the remainder. A two-mile dead-end road ends at Crater Lake. Two other roads, each less than a mile long, dead-end at Lava Well and Coffeepot Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: Over two-thirds of the subunit is a young lava flow with little noticeable vegetation. The lava flow blocked natural drainages and created a series of small ponds and lakes. Unique riparian vegetation is found adjacent to these water holes and also in some of the collapsed lava tubes. The remainder of the unit, lying mostly to the west of the lava field, consists of flat to rolling topography with a few ridges and buttes. This area is composed of an older lava flow with more developed soils; it has a sagebrush and native bunchgrass vegetative cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments within the subunit include two reservoirs (Coffeeport and Lava), three wells (Lava, Crater Lake and Lodge), two cabins, five miles of fence and two miles of ways.

All of the reservoirs, wells and cabins are located immediately adjacent to the boundary or at the termination of a dead-end road. They are readily visible to a person entering the area at that site. The two miles of ways and five miles of fence are substantially unnoticeable. They are partially screened, blend into the surrounding landscape, and represent only a minor impact.

Solitude: With the exception of a narrow finger on the northeast portion, the shape and size of the subunit contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The broken topography provides ample opportunity for seclusion and isolation. There is very little vegetative screening. The narrow (one-quarter mile wide) finger does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Many primitive recreational opportunities exist in the subunit. Some of them include nature study, bird watching, hiking, photography, hunting, sightseeing and camping. Due to the unique lava formations, ponds and lakes, botanical and zoological features, opportunities for several of the activities are outstanding by themselves. The opportuniites are particularly outstanding when the variety of possible activities is considered. However, the narrow finger in the south portion is too narrow, small, and isolated from the remainder of the area to offer truly outstanding primitive recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The Jordan Craters are designated as a Research Natural Area and possess many supplemental values. These include unique gelogical, botanical, and zoological features.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of approximately 28,000 acres. Eliminate 500 acres lacking wilderness charateristics. This includes several intrusions adjacent to the boundary and a narrow finger in the southeast corner.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received. Ten concur with the proposed decision. One supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal. Two comments oppose the proposed decision, arguing that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs and private land within the unit are substantially noticeable.

Final Decision: Designate 28,700 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. Eliminate 500 acres lacking wilderness charateristics. This includes several intrusions adjacent to the boundary and a narrow finger in the southeast corner. Eliminate all of the other subunits.

Rationale: The intrusions in subunit A do not appear to be generally natural. The narrow finger does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or recreation. The remainder of subunit A possesses wilderness characteristics. It appears to be generally natural and it offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Two comments state the private property, the two reservoirs and the three wells are substantially noticeable. The private property is not included as part of the unit. As stated in the proposed decision narrative all of the reservoirs and wells are eliminated because they are immediately adjacent to the boundary or dead-end road and are substantially noticeable. They do not adversely affect the remainder of the unit which has been designated a WSA.

Unit Number: 3-130

Unit Name: Whitehorse Butte

Subunits: The unit contains 25,420 acres. It contains a number of roads, dividing it into five subunits. Subunits 130B, C, D, and E do not meet any of the size criteria (200, 160, 140, and 60 acres, respectively) and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-130A

Description:

Size: The unit contains 24,860 acres of public land.

Location: The unit is 23 miles southwest of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a road to the north, BLM roads to the south and west and BLM and county roads to the east. Four dead-end roads penetrate the unit from the west side, two for three miles each and two for only a one-quarter mile each.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains low east-west oriented hills and ridgelines; they are steep-sided on the north side and sloping on the south. Whitehorse Butte is in the southeast corner, rising 200 feet to an elevation of 5,051 feet. An area known as Mud Flat is in the northeast corner. This is a sparsely vegetated flood plain. Mud Flat Creek, starts around Whitehorse Butte, flows through Mud Flat, and exits at the north end of the unit. A creek flows west from the unit's center through Indian Canyon, a shallow two-miles long rim. The unit's vegetation is sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 37 miles of ways within the unit. Each way is substantially unnoticeable by itself because of the topographic screening and sagebrush cover. Collectively, they are substantially noticeable because of their large number. They occur in all the major drainages and some across the flats and ridges.

The same situation exists with the reservoirs and other water developments. There are 20 reservoirs, a five-mile diversion ditch, and four miles of pipeline. Each of the reservoirs is in a small valley. They are evenly scattered throughout the unit with the exception of the south end, which only has three. Along the north boundary the Jaca Reservoir, in the north end, covers about 140 acres. Because the dam is adjacent to the boundary road, it is substantially unnoticeable. The water body appears to be a lake. The pipeline is near the reservoir. It was bladed upon construction and is substantially noticeable because it climbs up two small rises, one above the other, in the northeast corner of the unit. The diversion ditch is a 12 to 15-foot wide, winding canal that connects two reservoirs. It diverts water from one side of a ridge to another ridge about four miles away. It runs south to north through the center of the unit. Its cuts, fills, and banks are substantially noticeable.

There are approximately 27 miles of fences throughout the unit, dividing it into ten pastures. The major east-west fenceline was originally bladed but the scars have largely revegetated. The fencelines are substantially noticeable because of the large number and the pasture contrast on either side resulting from the intensive rangeland management. Depending upon the grazing system, this pasture contrast varies and may eventually disappear.

Most of the southern half of the unit was sprayed in a brush control project in 1962. It still contrasts sharply with the adjacent unsprayed vegetation. It remains substantially noticeable. The treatment covers approximately 6,100 acres.

Due north of this brush treatment is the 1964 Indian Canyon seeding. The brush was sprayed and 1,360 acres were seeded with crested wheatgrass. The pasture contrast is still substantially noticeable.

The 1969 Rim Basin Seeding is located in the northeast corner. One thousand acres were plowed and seeded. The furrows and rows of non-native grasses are still visible. It is substantially noticeable.

Because of the cumulative effect of the projects, the unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. The developments are substantially noticeable, and the area is not affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit is a moderate-sized, elongated area. The terrain is flat to generally rolling, and the vegetation is low. The low parallel ridgelines offer some degree of isolation, but it is not outstanding because the valleys are wide, shallow and without vegetative screening, denying persons the chance to escape the sight of others. There are few secluded, natural sites because of the number of intrusions. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and photography. Hiking and riding would be enjoyable in the rolling hills, ridges, and drainages. It would not be outstanding, however, because of the limited number of sites where the recreationist could avoid the many projects im the area. Fishing and hunting are limited because there is little fish and game. Photography is not outstanding because there are no unique subjects. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental values are scenic views off the unit. These include glimpses of the Owyhee Canyon and the Owyhee Range.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two support the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not appear to be generally natural. The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

A comment stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-130 is divided from the other Owyhee Country cluster units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

Two comments were received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-132

Unit Name: Parsnip Peak

Subunits: The unit contains 22,000 acres. During the intensive inventory a road was identified in the southern portion forming Subunits A and B. Subunit B is 400 acres; it does not meet the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-132A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 21,600 acres of public land. Within the subunit is a 160-acre parcel of private property.

Location: The subunit is located 5 miles south of Jordan Valley.

Boundaries: Private property forms most of the east boundary and a small portion of the west boundary. The remainder is bounded by roads. Two interior dead-end pipeline roads penetrate the west boundary for approximately two miles.

Physical Characteristics: Parship Peak rises to an elevation of 6128 feet and dominates the terrain. It is located in the north half of the subunit and is surrounded by rounded, gently rolling hills and ridges. The south half of the subunit is more dissected and broken by shaper ridges, numerous ravines, and some rimrock. The vegetation is sagebrush, pockets of bitterbrush, an occasional isolated juniper tree, and native bunch grasses.

Wilderness Criteria.

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The north portion of the subunit contains two reservoirs, one developed spring, one mile of buried pipeline and a parallel road, nine miles of fence and eight miles of ways. Due to the open, gently rolling slopes and the absence of screening, the cumulative impact of the intrusions on 5,760 acres is substantially noticeable.

A concentration of developments are located in an area of 640 acres north of the Carzacorta Ranch and near the middle of the west boundary. They include one mile of pipeline and parallel road, two and one-half miles of fence with parallel maintenance ways and an additional mile of ways. The cumulative impact of these intrusions is substantially noticeable.

Developments in the remainder of the subunit include eight miles of fence, 12 miles of ways, and two reservoirs. Toppin Creek Reservoir is fairly large and stands out. The cumulative impact renders this portion of the unit unnatural.

Solitude: North of a narrow neck in the middle of the subunit is an area of 4,800 acres which does not possess outstanding solitude. The slopes are gently rolling, open hillsides with a majority of the area in view of the county road forming the west boundary. The south half of the subunit offers outstanding opportunities because the diverse relief provides many secluded locations.

Recreation: The major activity in the area is deer hunting. Opportunities are not outstanding because of the open slopes and lack of vegetative cover. Hiking, camping and sightseeing opportunities are available but are not outstanding. There are no unique or interesting attractions in the subunit.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include good populations of sage grouse and a view of the Owyhee Mountains.

Proposed Decision: The March 1980 proposed decision was to designate a 10,800-acre wilderness study area and eliminate Toppin Creek Reservoir and 11,200 acres in the north half of the subunit because they do not possess wilderness characteristics. The study area was proposed because it was believed at the time that portion of the unit was essentially natural and offered outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision. One of the nine suggests that all of Subunit 3-132A be included in the WSA.

One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA decision. Two comments provide information about the locations of fences, springs and possible roads within the proposed WSA. Three other comments specifically oppose the proposed decison. Two argue that the unit lacks naturalness because the reservoirs and private lands within the proposed WSA are substantially noticeable. The third comment argues that Subunit 3-132A is not natural, that noise from airplanes and noise and dust from traffic on adjacent roads detract from solitude, and that the rocky terrain and short sage make the area unattractive for recreational activities.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The proposed decision to designate the unit as a WSA was changed because of additional intrusions identified by public comments which were overlooked during the inventory. Additional field checking confirms the presence of an additional reservoir, three miles of fence and five developed springs. The combined impact of these developments and the previously identified intrusions result in a cumulative effect of the entire unit appearing to be generally unnatural. Subunit B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

A comment stated some of the ways were roads. Re-examination indicates the routes lack construction and do not qualify as roads under the Bureau's road definition.

A comment stated the noise from airplanes and the noise and dust from traffic on the boundary roads detract from solitude. These are outside sights and sounds which are not considered during the inventory unless they are unusually extreme situations.

Nine comments were received supporting the proposed decision.

None of these comments provide substantive information about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Several comments restate the Bureau's published information providing no new data to support or change a decision.

Unit Number: 3-143

Unit Name: Owyhee River

During a re-evaluation in the field after the close of the public comment period, it was determined that the boundary between this former unit and Unit 3-195 is a way and not a road. Lands formerly in Unit 3-143 are now included in Unit 3-195.

Unit Number: 3-144

Unit Name: Hardin

Description

Size: 21,200 acres.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: Except for a small parcel of private property in the northeast portion of the unit, the unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is mainly a large sagebrush flat. The vegetation is less than three feet high and there is little topographic relief. The extreme northern portion of the unit includes a short segment of the Dry Creek drainage. It is bordered by a prominant rock rim. Several small playas dot the sagebrush flat.

Wilderness Characteristics

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately ten miles of fence crisscross the unit. Winter Range Well is located on the west boundary. Both are substantially unnoticeable. A substantially unnoticeable way enters the unit in the northeast and follows a fenceline for approximately three miles. All these intrusions are either screened or create only a minor disturbance.

A crested wheatgrass seeding of over 3,000 acres along Dry Creek is substantially noticeable below the southern rim of the drainage. A buried pipeline extends approximately one mile into the seeding. Hardin Reservoir and the fence surrounding it are substantially noticeable from below the rim. All of these intrusions are screened and not noticeable from the large flat above the rim. The only noticeable intrusion above the rim is a rock pile or sheepherder's monument.

Solitude: The unit offers a poor opportunity to find solitude because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Although the unit is moderately sized and fairly well shaped, these factors are not substantial enough to overcome the lack of screening. Users could not avoid thea presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: The area offers little diversity and few challenges. There are no unique or attractive features in the unit with the possible exception of Hardin Reservoir.

Supplemental Values: The wild horse population throughout the unit and the bull frog habitat at Hardin Reservoir are the only known supplemental values known in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA which the commentor states would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Above the rim and to the south of Dry Creek, the unit appearsto be generally natural. However, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-144 is divided from the other Owyhee Country cluster units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-145

Unit Name: Winter Range

Description

Size: The unit contains 86,000 acres of public land, including approximately 500 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. A 320-acre parcel of private property is located near the center of the unit.

Location: Eight miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads except for two parcels of private property along the western boundary. Seven dead-end roads enter the unit from various locations; their total length is approximately 20 miles.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the unit is a sagebrush flat. Jackies Butte is the only prominant point within the unit. Several small playas are scattered through the unit. Dry Creek Canyon forms a three mile gorge in the southcentral portion. Sagebrush, native grasses and crested wheatgrass are the dominant vegetative types.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments in the unit include 44 miles of fence, 22 miles of ways, 18 miles of bladed fenceline, nine miles of pipeline, three reservoirs, a horse trap and 15,000 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. The cumulative impact from these intrusions is substantially noticeable. They are spread through most of the unit and dominate the natural landscape. The central portion of the unit, which contains a deadend road, is the least disturbed area.

Solitude: The only portion of the unit possessing any degree of naturalness is narrow and lacks vegetative and topographic screening. There is no outstanding opportunity for solitude in this or any other portion of the unit.

Recreation: The entire unit lacks topographic diversity, interesting points, and challenging features. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a large wild horse population and abundant lava rock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and three oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. One suggests that the remote location and sparse population in the area provide solitude. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA which the commentor states would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit lacks naturalness, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

A comment stated that the remote location and sparse surrounding population provide the necessary solitude. The Bureau's evaluation of solitude is based upon the opportunity that an individual has to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the same unit. The determining factors are the size and shape of the unit and the amount of topographic and vegetative screening present within the unit.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-145 is divided from the other Owyhee Country cluster units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

A comment stated the unit supports large populations of raptors and other unique and threatened species. While no specific information is provided in the comment, such as species and location, this information would be part of the unit's supplemental values. The unit still does not possess the required minimum wilderness characteristics.

One comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-146

Unit Name: Indian Fort

Revision of Unit Boundaries: During a re-evaluation in the field after the close of the public comment period, it was determined that the boundary between this former unit and Unit 3-148 is a way and not a road. Lands formerly in Unit 3-146 are now included in 3-148.

Unit Number: 3-148

Unit Name: Big Grassy Mountain

Revision of Unit Boundary: During a re-evaluation in the field after the close of the public comment period, it was determined that the boundary between this unit and former Unit 3-146 is a way and not a road. Lands formerly in Unit 3-146 are now included in Unit 3-148. Unit 3-148 now contains 55,200 acres of public land. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres. Subunit B (formerly 3-146B) contains 2,400 acres; Subunit C (formerly 3-146C) contains 1,400 acres; and Subunit D (formerly 3-146E) contains 500 acres. None of these subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and they are not discussed below.

Subunit Number: 3-148A

Description

Size: The subunit contains approximately 50,900 acres of public lands. There is no private or state land in the subunit.

Location: The subunit is located five miles south of Rome.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads except for a block of private land in the northwest corner. A three-mile road extends into the subunit to Mustang Reservoir in the southwest corner of the subunit, and a one-mile road enters the subunit from the west boundary and deadends at West Grassy Mountain Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: Big Grassy Mountain, located in the center of the subunit, tapers off in all directions into rolling hills with some rimrock. Minor drainages include Indian Fort Creek, Dry Creek, and Upper Carbin Creek. Portions of the west side and the northwest arm of the subunit are relatively flat. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, native bunchgrass and crested wheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments include 30 miles of ways, 12 reservoirs, 21 miles of fence, 8,500 acres of crested wheatgrass seedings, two miles of irrigation canal, six miles of pipeline, and ten miles of bladed fireline.

Approximately 22,000 acres in the southeast portion of the subunit appear to be substantially free of the works of man. The reservoirs in this portion are relatively small and are partially hidden in drainage bottoms. The ways are mostly screened from view by rimrock and rolling topography and by sagebrush on the flats. The fences tend to blend into the background except across Grassy Mountain Lake on the top of Big Grassy Mountain. The lake is dry most of the year; and the fence across it is highly noticeable from the slightly higher ground around the lake.

The works of man are substantially noticeable in about 29,000 acres in the west and north portions of the subunit. Mustang and West Grassy Mountain Reservoirs on the west sides are relatively large, and the dams and borrow areas are highly visible. The rows of the crested wheatgrass seedings and the linear pattern of the cuts and vegetation color contrast along the bladed firelines are also substantially noticeable. The irrigation canal's constructed banks stand out from a considerable distance. The concentration of seedings and ways in the northwest corner of the subunit is particularly noticeable because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening.

Solitude: The 22,000 acres remaining in a relatively natural condition do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The flanks of Grassy Mountain slope gently in all directions to the unit boundaries. The drainages are relatively shallow and provide limited screening. The sagebrush and bunchgrass would not prevent visitors from seeing other users in the unit.

Recreation: The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Game populations are moderate to low. Scenic viewing opportunities are limited to observing distant mountain ranges outside the subunit and portion of the edge of the Owyhee River canyon. There are no particularly interesting points to which to hike. The top of Big Grassy Mountain rises only 600 feet in approximately 3 miles. There is no pronounced promontory or outcrop at the top. A shallow crater in the center of the mountain contains water only during a short period of the year. A fence crossing the mud flat in the crater is an obvious intrusion.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental value in the subunit is the shallow crater.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and three oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. One suggests that the unit's boundary roads are not significant, that Grassy Mountain's radial drainage pattern provides solitude, and that the unit should be combined and studied with Subunit 3-143A.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Much of the subunit contains substantially noticeable works of man. The 22,000 acres remaining in a relatively natural condition do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The only obvious destination point for a hiker is the rounded top of Grassy Mountain; and from that point other users in the unit would be observable. The shallow drainages and the short vegetation would not screen other persons from view. There is no unusual feature to attract users and provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation activities.

The roads bounding the unit bear obvious signs of construction and maintenance and receive frequent and continuous use.

The law establishing the wilderness review clearly requires that the review begin with an inventory of roadless areas. With this mandate, we do not have the perrogative of combining this subunit with Subunit 3-143A in the inventory phase of the wilderness review.

Unit Number: 3-149

Unit Name: Hanson Canyon

Description

Size: 15,960 acres.

Location: Four miles west of Three Forks of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads. One road enters the unit and dead-ends at Squaw Flat Reservoir.

Physical Characteristics: There is one rise in the north corner of the unit. Immediately to the south of it is a low, east-west rim. Three creeks in the unit are separated by rolling hills. The hills are covered with sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A fenceline parallels the southwest boundary. It is substantially unnoticeable because of the rolling terrain. Six miles of ways are also substantially unnoticeable because they are obscured from view by the terrain and overgrown with sagebrush. They are screened from view unless observed along their length.

Reservoirs are located in the north corner, one in the east corner, midway along the northwest boundary, and southwest of the unit's center. All four are substantially unnoticeable because they are hidden between the rolling hills or at the bottom of the rim.

Solitude: The low rolling hills and the unit's shape provide a limited opportunity for solitude, but the opportunity is not outstanding because the shallows between the hills are open and contain little screening. Users would find it difficult to avoid the presence of others in the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and photography. They are not outstanding. There are no particularly interesting or unique sights and destination points. The unit can be crossed in less than three hours on foot. There are no major drainages to explore.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA which the commentor states would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-149 is divided from the other Owyhee Country cluster units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

One comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-152

Unit Name: Willow Creek. This unit has been previously referred to as Whitehorse Creek, which is a geographical feature outside the unit. The name has been changed to better describe the area encompassed by the unit.

Description

Size: The unit contains 44,770 acres, which includes 1,640 acres of state exchange land presently in the process of being acquired. The revised acreage figure is the result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter. There are 16 parcels of private property within the unit totalling 840 acres.

Location: 8 miles south of Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south and west by BLM roads, private property and a county road; on the east by BLM roads and private property, and to the north by another road. A dead-end road penetrates from the northern central boundary for four miles and another from the northwestern boundary for three miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of steep rimrocked canyons with rounded ridges and plateaus between them, forming the headwaters of Willow and Whitehorse Creeks. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, mountain mahogany, aspen, and bunchgrass. The unit also consists of the northern foothills of the Trout Creek Mountains. Parallel ridges and drainages turn into rolling hills dissected by small canyons and breaks. Willow Butte and a small neighboring tabletop are situated at the base of the foothills. The vegetaion is predominately sagebrush and range grasses with riparian vegetation along Willow Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 32 miles of fence in the unit, generally near the perimeter. The northwest corner contains the majority of the fence lines. The area west of Willow Butte is divided into six pastures.

Throughout this area there is a high frequency of contact with the fencelines resulting in them becoming substantially noticeable. The terrain in this area does not effectively hide the fences as they rise up the slopes of the undulating hills. One of these fence lines heads due south from this area and parallels the western boundary. Along the boundary it is substantialy noticeable. From the Horseshoe Corral south it heads away from the boundary and becomes hidden by the terrain and vegetative screening.

The northwest corner also contains six reservoirs and three spring developments. Most of these are within a mile from one another. One is large and severely trampled. All are alongside either roads or ways. Their proximity to one another and the access routes provide a high frequency of contact. The moderate terrain does not compensate for this continual recurrance. Thus, they become substantally noticeable. Another reservoir is in the southwest corner. It is on a ridge shared by the boundary road. The road circles around it and there is an access route to it. The terrain is such that the reservoir is in a shallow depression along the ridge, which focuses visual attention towards it from the surrounding slopes. Thus, it is also substantially noticeable.

There is an airstrip in the western most point of the unit. It is immediately off the road and is surrounded by ways and fences. It rests on a low elongated hill that is visible from the surrounding area, exhibits blade scars and is substantially noticeable. There are two seedings in the unit. One is in the northeast portion of the unit. It is a 160-acre segment of a much larger seeding area east of the boundary road. The irregular shaped seeding sharply contrasts with the adjacent sagebrush and is substantially noticeable. South of Willow Butte to the western boundary is a 3,460-acre seeding that was not successful. It has largely overgrown and is now substantially unnoticeable. In the north central portion of the unit are two old buildings in a state of ruin. A third is found along the northern dead-end road. Their effect is more pastoral than obtrusive. An old corral of wood and wire exists in this area, a mile and a half from the Smith Spring Reservoirs. These intrusions do not provide a stark color contrast, nor are they large. Consequently, they are substantially unnoticeable.

There are 31 miles of ways within this unit, seventeen of which are in the northwestern corner. One way cuts the unit through its length. Due to terrain, it is substantially unnoticeable. Several other short ways penetrate the unit in different places from the boundary but end in less than a mile. The remainder, cramped together below the northern slopes of Trout Creeks, provide a high frequency of contact, are often visible across the rolling hills, and show a fair degree of use. As a result, they are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Because of several parallel deep drainages with riparian habitat and wooded groves within them and on the hillsides, most of the area offers many locations to achieve solitude. The unit's square shape and large size contribute to an outstanding opportunity to avoid others. However, the northwestern corner of the unit does not offer a high degree of topographic diversity. Here the terrain is rolling hills and a couple of draws. Willow Butte does not offer screening because it is near the boundary with only a sagebrush flat behind it. Much of this area is in full view of the unit's boundary, which hinders the opportunity to escape the sight of others.

In addition, a small portion of the western boundary (180 acres) does not offer any degree of solitude because it is a small, narrow strip of sagebrush on the ridgetop between the boundary road and the adjacent substantially noticeable fenceline.

Recreation: There are excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, bird watching, and sight-seeing. Because of the diversity of available activities, the challenging terrain, the large size (which provides extensive touring possibilities), and the numerous natural, secluded sites, the opportunity for primitive recreation within most of the unit is considered outstanding. However, the northwestern corner of the unit does not offer such an opportunity because of the limited challenging terrain, lack of unusual or interesting features, lack of natural, secluded campsites, and few recreational opportunites. This also applies to the portion along the west boundary between the fence and the road.

Supplemental Values: The most outstanding supplemental value of the area is zoological. Willow Creek contains a species of trout, the Alvord cutthroat, that occurs only in drainages flowing out of the Trout Creek Mountains. The fish occur in the portion of Willow Creek that is in this unit. This is largely because of beavers who have taken advantage of the willow grove along the creek. The willow grove is a significant ecosystem for this area. The Willow Creek breaks, several steep sided ravines and two canyons offer opportunities for geologic study. Scenic vistas from the area include the Steens, the Trout Creeks, Flagstaff and Whitehorse Buttes, and the Alvord Desert. The road in the north central area is a 100-year-old route to an old homestead site, of which 3 foundations and walls remain. The west boundary is the old stage route from Boise, Idaho to Chico, California.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 27,350-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 14,970 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-four comments were received. Twenty concur with the proposed decision. One of them suggests that all of the unit be a WSA. Another suggests that the northwest boundary be revised to increase the size of the WSA, and another suggests that unit 3-152 be combined with Units 3-153, 3-156A and 3-157.

Three comments oppose the proposed decision. Two argue that private lands within the unit detract from its naturalness. One opposes wilderness use in favor of vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 29,800-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 14,970 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: A more accurate calculation of the WSA's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage. The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the 160-acre seeding, the reservoir in the southwestern corner (approximately 10 acres), the 14,260-acre northwestern corner that is adversely affected by substantially noticeable works of man, and the 180 acres along the west boundary that do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

A comment stated the entire unit should be a WSA. Another comment questioned the northwest boundary, and another felt the unit should be combined with all of the Trout Creek Units. Portions of the unit were eliminated because they did not generally appear to be natural. The northwest boundary is formed by a fence splitting off an area containing a 3,460 acre seeding, six reservoirs, three developed springs, approximately 15 miles of ways, 2 miles of roads, approximately 20 miles of fence and an airstrip. All of the intrusions result in the area not generally appearing to be natural. The other boundaries are either along private property or roads preventing the combination of the roadless areas with adjacent areaa during the inventory. The purpose of the inventory is to identify roadless areas which possess the minimum wilderness characteristics. Any proposal to combine units would have to be analyzed during the study phase.

Two comments mention private property, which is not included as part of the unit, and other resource uses, which will be analyzed during the study phase and do not influence the inventory.

All other comments support the proposed decison.

Unit Number: 3-153/2-78D/NV-020-859

Unit Name: Disaster Peak

Introduction: This unit is contiguous with Inventory Unit NV-020-859 in the Winnemucca District, Nevada, which is in turn contiguous with Inventory Subunit 2-78D in the Burns District, Oregon. The entire interstate unit contains 27,642 acres: 3-153 has 13,300 acres, NV-020-859 has 11,622 acres and 2-78D has 2,720 acres. A joint inventory of the area was conducted and the description and decision which follow apply to the entire unit.

Revision of Unit Boundary: A re-evaluation of the unit following the public comment period verified that the road up Peak Canyon does not cross the north side of Disaster Peak and over the ridge down into Granite Creek, as the boundary previously indicates. The amended southern boundary extends to the China Creek road, adding some 1,800 acres to the unit.

Description

Size: 27,642 acres of public land. The revised acreage figure is based on a more accurate measurement of the size of the unit and the boundary revision. There are three 40-acre inholdings of private land.

Location: Approximately 18 miles south of Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: BLM roads form most of the boundaries. In some areas there is a combination of private property with a road. There are three deadend roads running into the unit, with a combined length of about five miles.

Physical Characteristics: This unit lies to the west and north of Disaster Peak. The portion in the Vale District consists of steep, rugged terrain with deeply incised drainages and a variety of vegetation, including juniper, aspen and willow. Going south into Nevada the terrain flattens out onto a high plateau with sheer rimrock. Vegetation is more sparse, consisting almost entirely of sagebrush and low shrubs. The portion in the Burns District also contains part of the deeply incised Kings River drainage. The vegetation is predominantly sagebrush, but there is some aspen on the higher elevations and some willow in the valley bottoms.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit satisfies the minimum size criterion.

Naturalness: There are five reservoirs and numerous water developments at spring sites scattered throughout the unit. All the developed reservoirs are in Oregon along the periphery of the unit where they are not disruptive of the naturalness of the area as a whole. There are approximately five miles of ways and 18 miles of fenceline. None of them are substantially noticeable due to their minor impacts and screening. Several diggings and a snow course measurement station are also located within the unit. The area is primarily natural and the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The diverse topography and vegetation provide ample natural screening for the unit to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The diverse and challenging topography, natural screening, availability of water, scenic values, and significant points of interest combine to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: Geological features are the only ones that have been identified.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 25,840 acre wilderness study area, with 13,420 acres in Unit 3-153, 9,700 acres in Unit NV-020-859, and 2,720 acres in Subunit 2-78D.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty four comments were received. Twenty one concur with the proposed decision. One of them suggests combining Unit 3-153 with Units 3-152, 3-156A and 3-157. One comment discusses supplemental values, and another provides information about possible roads; but neither refers to the proposed decision.

Eleven comments oppose the proposed decision. Nine of them suggest that the unit does not appear to be generally natural; mentioning one or more of the following factors: roads, fences, traces of mining activities, reservoirs, or private land within the unit. One comment suggests that the quality of the unit's screening and vegetation is not good enough for a WSA. One opposes wilderness use in favor of retaining vehicle access, unrestricted resource management and multiple use.

Final Decision: Designate the entire 27,642-acre unit a wilderness study area. (OR-2-78D = 2,720 acres, OR-3-153 = 13,300 acres, NV-02-859 = 11,622 acres).

Rationale: The unit appears to be essentially natural and it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Several comments identified additional roads and developments. Four additional dead-end roads with a combined length of approximately 4 miles have been added to the unit's boundary (Peak and Line Canyons, Orvada View and East Fork Granite Creek.) Several miles of ways were also added to the unit. Some diggings and a snow measurement station were added to the intrusions within the unit. However, with the diverse topography and pockets of vegetative screening, the intrusions are screened from a majority of the unit. Some of the intrusions identified were outside the unit's boundary.

A comment stated the unit should be combined with the adjacent units. The inventory unit cannot be considered as part of other adjacent inventory units during the inventory because of roads defining the boundary and dividing the units into separate roadless areas.

All the other comments either agreed with the proposed decision or discussed study information which will be examined during the study phase.

Unit Number: 3-157

Unit Name: Oregon Canyon

Description

Size: The unit contains 58,100 acres, including 2,240 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The revised acreage figure is the result of re-calculation using an electronic planimeter.

Location: Ten miles northwest of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a combination of private property and roads on the east, and roads on the north and west. The south boundary was established in the initial inventory to eliminate land in which the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is the southeast corner of the Trout Creek Mountains. The topography is diverse. The dramatic, deeply incised Oregon Canyon runs north and south through the center of the unit. A high ridgeline and precipitous escarpment fall off to an undulating alluvial fan east of Oregon Canyon. A gently rolling ridge lies west of Oregon Canyon. The terrain breaks off to the south into a highly dissected pattern of many canyons and ridges. There are many prominent rims, creeks, and ravines in the unit. The vegetation consists of aspen pockets, mahogany thickets, willows and associated riparian vegetation along the creek, sagebrush, and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The east portion of the unit contains approximately 30 miles of fence, 20 miles of pipeline, six miles of transmission line, seven developed springs, two reservoirs, a 12,000-acre crested wheatgrass seeding and 20 miles of roads and ways. Individually and collectively, these intrusions are substantially noticeable. This portion of the unit, east of the fenceline forming the boundary of the seeding, does not appear to be generally natural.

The north portion of the unit contains seven miles of fence, two miles of pipeline, a 40-acre brush control project and three miles of roads and ways.

The remainder of the unit contains 12 miles of fence, a 600-acre brush control project and eight miles of ways. Brush has reinvaded the brush control project area to the point where the project is not distinguishable. The ways are screened by the topography and vegetation, and the fence causes only a minor impact.

Solitude: The extreme north and southeast portions of the unit are isolated fingers jutting out from the body of the unit. They are narrow and lack vegetative and topographic screening.

The remainder of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the diverse topography, pockets of vegetative screening, and the relatively large size of the unit.

Recreation: The topography is both challenging and diverse. Numerous springs and the creek in Oregon Canyon provide abundant water. Scattered pockets of vegetation provide shelter. Many points of interest exist. Abundant wildlife provide excellent viewing and hunting opportunities. Photography, hiking, backpacking, camping and sightseeing opportunities are also outstanding.

Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include interesting geologic canyon formations, spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife and important riparian habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 49,400-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate from further wilderness review 7,200 acres in the east portion of the unit, 3,900 acres in the north, 2,600 acres in the southeast, and 2,500 acres in the south.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-two comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision. One of the nine suggests combining Unit 3-157 with Units 3-152, 3-153 and 3-156A. Another suggests that the entire unit be included in the WSA, and another suggests boundary changes to enlarge the WSA.

One comment provides information about possible roads within the unit, but does not refer to the proposed decision. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal. This comment also provides some study phase minerals information. One comment opposes the proposed decision with the argument that the reservoirs within the unit detract substantially from its naturalness.

Final Decision: Designate a 41,900-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate from further wilderness review 7,200 acres in the east portion of the unit, 3,900 acres in the north, 2,600 acres in the southeast, and 2,500 acres in the south.

Rationale: The east portion of the unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. The north and southeast portions do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The southern boundary is redefined to follow the edge of major rims, the mouths of canyons, and the edge of alluvial fans. This represents the closest definable boundary to the many developments south of the proposed wilderness study area. The remainder of the unit appears to be generally natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

Three comments suggested enlarging or combining the unit with the other Trout Creek Units. During the inventory the unit is defined by roads preventing a combination of this roadless area with adjacent roadless areas. Portions of the unit were eliminated because of the imprints of man and because they were narrow fingers extending out from the main body of the unit and did not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or recreation.

A comment stated the reservoir and four developed springs were substantially noticeable. The two reservoirs in the unit were eliminated because they were substantially noticeable. The developed springs are all small and only represent a minor impact. They are substantially unnoticeable.

A comment identifed several additional roads. Further field examination confirmed that these routes do not qualify as roads because they lack any improvement. Most are deer hunter jeep trails and are classified as ways.

Several comments mentioned mineral information and supplemental values which will be further analyzed in the study phase.

All of the other comments supported the proposed decison.

Unit Number: 3-159/ID-106-70E/NV-020-811

Unit Name: Tent Creek

Note: The proposed decision on this unit was announced March 1980. The land in Oregon is contiguous to roadless land in Idaho and Nevada. The final decision is being deferred because the contiguous lands in Idaho are under an appeal of an initial inventory decision. Because of the appeal, the Idaho State Director has not issued a proposed intensive inventory decision for the Idaho portion of this interstate unit. When the appeal is resolved and the Idaho State Director announces a proposed intensive inventory decision, the Oregon State Director will reopen the public comment period for Unit 3-159 so the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the interstate unit as a complete entity. The final decision will be announced concurrently by the three states. A description of the unit and a summary of public comments is in Appendix B.

Unit Number: 3-160

Unit Name: High Peak

Description

Size: The unit contains 14,040 acres, including 1,280 acres of State land in the proccess of being acquired.

Location: Approximately one-half mile east of U.S. Highway 95 and seven miles north of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The north boundary consists of private land and a county road. West, south and east boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: High Peak is the dominant topographic feature. It is located near the south central boundary. All drainages in the unit radiate from this peak. The north, west and south portions of the unit consist of gently rolling terrain; the east portion is relatively flat. Some rimrock is evident on the hills throughout the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 19 miles of ways, one repeater site, five miles of fence, three miles of powerline, three reservoirs and four spring developments. The fence, spring developments, reservoirs and powerline are accompanied by ways. Individually, the intrusions do not detract greatly from the natural setting of the area. However, their cumulative effect is to leave a clear imprint of man's work. At lower points within the unit, the repeater site on High Peak is dominant. From High Peak, the powerline, ways, reservoir and fenceline become dominant. The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is approximately three and one-half miles at its widest point and eight miles long. High Peak is the major topographic feature. Some screening on the ridge provides limited opportunities for solitude. The sagebrush and grasses provide no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The configuration and relatively small size of the unit limit opportunities to avoid other users.

Recreation: Viewing the valley bottoms from High Peak, hiking across sagebrush flats, horseback riding, chukar hunting, deer hunting and primitive dry camping are recreational pursuits available in the unit. However, recreational opportunities are not outstanding because of a lack of attractive sites, topographic diversity, and large game populations.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-162

Unit Name: Twelvemile

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-162 contains 39,700 acres. The revised acreage figure is the result of recalculation with an electronic planimeter. It is divided by roads into four subunits. Three of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (240, 240, and 3,280 acres). None of the three subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. They are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-162A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 35,940 acres, including 1,620 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are nine parcels of private property in the unit totalling 560 acres.

Location: Seven miles southeast of the Whitehorse Ranch.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by a BLM road on the west, private property on the north, a transmission line construction road on the east, and a pipeline road on the south. Two deadend roads extend into the center of the area from the south boundary; their total length is four miles.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes the headwaters of Antelope and Twelvemile Creeks. The creeks flow northwest through steep, rimrocked canyons. Plateaus between the canyons vary in relief from relatively flat to rolling. Along the north edge of the unit, the terrain slopes down at the end of Twelvemile Canyon and then levels out into sagebrush flats. Riparian vegetation and mountain mahogany grow along the hillside springs and creek sides. Sagebrush and grass grow on the canyon slopes and plateaus.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Crested wheatgrass was planted on 6,880 acres to the north of a bladed fenceline that crosses the north portion of the unit. There is another seeding of 1,200 acres, bounded by a way and a fenceline, in the west corner of the unit. A 760 acre brush control project is located in the southeast corner. From there a transmission line heads north along the east boundary. All these intrusions are highly visible, and substantially noticeable.

The central part of the unit appears to be generally natural. There are three reservoirs and approximately 12 miles of ways scattered evenly within it, all substantially unnoticeable due to terrain.

Solitude: The terrain is diverse and offers excellent opportunities for solitude. Opportunities in the canyon bottoms and some of the higher areas are further enhanced by patches of mountain mahogany. Although the trees are short and moderately dense, they provide many shaded, isolated campsites. The size and shape of the unit also serve to isolate the central core area.

Recreation: The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for hiking, camping, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, photography, sightseeing, climbing, and horseback riding. There are many ravines and drainages to explore and rimrock to scramble. The area has a large population of game animals.

Supplemental Values: The unit offers opportunities for scientific and educational studies of the riparian habitats and geology. Scenic views include the Trout Creeks, Steens Mountain, Whitehorse and Willow Buttes, Blue Mountain, and the interior canyons.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 27,160-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 8,840 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision. One comment provides information about possible roads without specific reference to the decision. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate 27,100 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. A more accurate calculation of the WSA's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage. Eliminate 8,840 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics. Eliminate all of the other subunits.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The areas lacking wilderness characteristics include the 760-acre brush control project, the 1,200-acre seeding, and the north portion of the unit cut off by the bladed fenceline (which incorporates another seeding of 6,880 acres).

A comment identified several additional roads. Further field checking verified that these routes are ways and do not meet the road definition because they lack improvement.

All the other comments supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-163

Unit Name: Blue Mountain

Description

Size: The unit contains 61,980 acres of public land, including 4,180 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Two miles west of Blue Mountain Pass, U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded to the north and south by county roads, to the west by BLM roads, and to the east by BLM roads and U.S. Highway 95. Approximately 21 miles of roads extend into the unit and deadend on Blue Mountain.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes Blue Mountain, a 6,000-foot peak, and rolling hills. The mountains and hills form a north-south ridgeline. Most of the unit to the west of Blue Mountain is extremely flat. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. There are 32 miles of ways. They extend into the unit from all sides and generally work up the hillsides to Blue Mountain. Some are over pipelines, which total six and one-half miles. The pipelines are substantially noticeable because of the gentle slopes and lack of vegetative cover. Scattered throughout the unit are 14 reservoirs, two guzzlers, and one developed spring. Along the pipelines are water troughs. These developments are substantially unnoticeable because of their small size.

An oil drill pad is located in the center of the unit and a radio repeater site is located on the peak. A transmission line leads to the repeater. These intrusions are substantially noticeable. Since the unit is one central ridge and extensive flats, the repeater can be seen from the majority of the unit.

Approximately 4,260 acres of brush control projects lie on the lower slopes to the east and west of Blue Mountain. They are substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable crested wheatgrass seeding of 680 acres is located in the northeast corner. Approximately 29 miles of fence are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: There is little opportunity to achieve solitude in this unit because of the terrain and lack of vegetative screening. Most of the terrain is flat, and the east half is exposed to Highway 95. Although the highway is outside the unit, it cannot be avoided or ignored.

The west side offers one shallow inner drainage with no vegetative screening; the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding. If the boundaries were adjusted to eliminate substantially noticeable intrusions, the remaining unit would be barbell shaped with approximately eighteen square miles at one end, ten square miles at the other, and a neck about three miles wide and seven miles long following an open ridgeline. Between the repeater and the oil rig platform the neck would be across a steep hillside, less than one mile wide. Visitors would find it difficult to avoid the presence of others in such an area.

Recreation: A visitor could hike, backpack, horseback ride, and sightsee in the unit. However, such opportunities are not outstanding due to the lack of unique or interesting features.

Supplemental Values: The only supplemental value evident in the unit is the opportunity for scenic vistas from Blue Mountain. From here the Trout Creek Mountains, Steens Mountains, Alvord Desert, Sheepshead Mountains, Owyhee Mountains, and Santa Rosa Range are visible. All of these sights are out of the unit. The unit itself has little scenic value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and three oppose it. Two provide no information to support their position. One suggests that naturalness could be restored to the unit by relocating the radio repeater and transmission lines and removing the drill pad, and that the large size of the unit would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Man's work is substantially noticeable, and the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.

A comment stated the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of the scenic vistas from Blue Mountain and the rather large size of the unit. The scenic quality and sight-seeing opportunities within Unit 3-163 are significantly affected by human disturbances and do not include any truly unique or attractive features. The distant vistas are outside the unit and are not a part of the unit's characteristics. The unit lacks outstanding solitude not because of its size but because of an absence of vegetative screening and because the open slopes and flat terrain provide little topographic screening.

A comment stated that the unit's naturalness could be restored by relocating the radio repeater and transmission line outside the unit and by removing the oil drill pad or make it unobstrusive as possible. The Bureau's policy is that an inventory unit must qualify as having wilderness characteristics without considering rehabilitation potential. The intent is not to create wilderness where it does not exist.

A comment stated the intensive inventory book does not discuss Unit 3-163 and therefore should be recommended for further study. A page containing a portion of the narrative for the unit was omitted during the printing of the intensive inventory book. An errata sheet containing the omitted information was distributed at public meetings held during the public comment period.

Unit Number: 3-164

Unit Name: Alcorta Rim

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-164 contains 15,560 acres. During the intensive inventory, a road located one and one-half miles north of the south boundary was identified. This divided the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-164B contains 2,240 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-164A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 13,320 acres, including 750 acres of State lands in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately three and one-half miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and three miles east of U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: The west boundary consists of private land and a BLM road. The north, east and south boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit consists of rolling hills to relatively flat land. Near the southeast corner, the rolling hills begin to break away to the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation. The hills contain small outcrops of rimrock. The vegetation is native grasses and sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately 15 miles of ways, five and one-half miles of fences, five spring developments, three reservoirs, one inactive mine operation and approximately 700 acres of brush control project. Individually, the intrusions do not appear to be substantially noticeable. Collectively, the intrusions detract from the natural setting and are substantially noticeable. From any point in the unit, users would come into contact with the imprint of man's work by travelling only a mile.

Solitude: The unit's greatest dimensions are two and one-half miles by eight and one-half miles. The rolling hills provide limited screening and some opportunities for solitude. However, the opportunities are not outstanding because users would have to restrict travel to drainage bottoms to be concealed from other users. The sagebrush and grasses provide no vegetative screening.

Recreation: A user might come to this unit for general sightseeing, deer hunting, chukar hunting, horseback riding or primitive camping. However, the opportunities for these activities are not outstanding. The unit does not contain interesting or unique features.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in subunit A. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are not outstanding. Subunit B does not meet any of the size criteria. A comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-171

Unit Name: Pole Creek

Description

Size: The unit contains 19,200 acres of public land, including 600 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. There are 200 acres of private inholdings, 80 acres along Pole Creek in two parcels and 120 acres around Rawhide Springs.

Location: 25 miles east of Blue Mountain Pass on U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: Private property and a road form the south boundary. The rest of the unit is surrounded by BLM roads. Three dead-end roads penetrate the south end of the unit. One follows a pipeline, one ends at a reservoir, and another ends at the edge of the Pole Creek rim. Another dead-end road extends through the unit to 520 acres of private land along Pole Creek.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of gentle hills and low knolls. In general, the unit rises towards the center. The Pole Creek drainage lies parallel to the west boundary. It has rims 50 feet high and is the only notable feature in the unit. The vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. There is some riparian growth along the banks of Pole Creek.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Cow camps are located on private land inholdings. The Rawhide Camp includes an airstrip. Although not technically in the unit, the structures cannot be avoided because of the low, shallow roll of the terrain and the central location of two of the cabins.

A 3,000-acre seeding in the center of the unit is substantially unnoticeable because the natural vegetation has largely returned. A noticeable seeding lies along the northwest edge of the unit. The planting rows are still visible.

The unit is divided in half from west to east by a bladed fenceline which is substantially noticeable. A substantially noticeable pipeline with numerous parallel ways extends along the entire east boundary and into the south end of the unit. It is noticeable because of the linear patterns of the adjacent ways and roads and the troughs located throughout the flat east side.

Ways and a large number of cattle trails crisscross the unit in many locations. The cumulative effect of the ways and trails is substantially noticeable. It renders most of the unit unnatural.

Four reservoirs are located in the unit. One reservoir in the unit's center is substantially noticeable due to the contrast created by grazing and trampling inside the fence. Because of the terrain, it can be seen from a long distance. The other reservoirs are in shallow draws and remain substantially hidden.

The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: There is virtually no topographic or vegetative screening except along the Pole Creek drainage. One-third of the drainage is privately owned. The unit is shaped like a trapezoid, seven miles wide at the south end, two miles wide at the north end, and ten miles long. The furthest interior point can be reached with a three mile hike across open terrain. Given its terrain, the unit is too small and elongated to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, nordic skiing, and photography. These opportunities are limited because of the undistinguished terrain. There are no unique photographic opportunities. Opportunities for the primitive and unconfined recreational activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and three oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. One suggests that the remote location and sparse population in the area provide solitude. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-171 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

A comment stated that the remote location and sparse surrounding population provide the necessary solitude. The Bureau's evaluation of solitude depends upon the opportunity that an individual has to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the same unit. The determining factors are the size and shape of the unit, and the amount of topographic and vegetative screening present within the unit.

A comment stated the unit possessed outstanding solitude because of it's fairly large size. The 19,200 acre unit does not provide outstanding solitude opportunities due to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening and an elongated configuration. The size does not compensate for the absence of these other features.

A comment stated that outstanding primitive recreation existed in the spring for nature study and photography of wildflowers and plants. The area possesses no interesting concentrations or unusual wildflowers or plants. Only during years of above average rainfall are wildflowers abundant and then they are no more plentiful in this unit than other units.

Unit Number: 3-172/NV-020-809

Unit Name: Deer Flat

Subunits: Inventory unit 3-172 contains 11,700 acres (11,200 acres in Oregon and 500 acres in Nevada). Roads identified in the southeast and northeast portions of the unit during the intensive inventory form three subunits. Subunits B and C do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below. All of the Nevada lands are in Subunit B.

Subunit Number: 3-172A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 10,100 acres, including 600 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: The subunit is located on the Nevada border immediately east of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, 11 miles east of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation on the west and by roads on the other boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is on a high plateau gently sloping to the east. Several small, shallow drainages lined with rimrock dissect the area. Sagebrush, native grasses and some riparian vegetation along the drainages make up the majority of the vegetation in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments in the subunit include two springs in the northwest, two reservoirs in the southeast, a fenceline along the western and southern boundary and three miles of ways mainly in the north. All of these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable. Their impact upon the landscape is minor, and they are screened by the undulating terrain.

Solitude: Due to the relatively small size of the subunit and the absence of any significant vegetative or topographic screening there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the lack of diversity, challenging features, or any noticeable points of interest.

Supplemental Values: Zoological values include populations of antelope, deer, sagegrouse, and wild horses.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears to be generally natural. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

One comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-173

Unit Name: Upper West Little Owyhee. This unit was previously referred to as "Jack's Creek," which is a geographical feature outside the unit. The name is changed to better describe the unit's location.

Subunits: Inventory Unit 3-173 contains 89,920 acres. Since the March report was published the acreage has been re-calculated with an electronic planimeter. Roads divide the unit into five subunits. Four of the subunits contain less than 5,000 acres (960, 320, 160, and 120 acres). None of these four subunits meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and they are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-173A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 88,360 acres, including 5,360 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. Two parcels of private property within the unit total 200 acres.

Location: 12 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The southeast boundary is a combination of private property and roads. The remainder of the subunit is bounded by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain consists of rolling hills and flats dissected by shallow canyons. The canyons are the headwaters of Antelope, Trail, and Rattlesnake Creeks and the West Little Owyhee River. The vegetation is sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The area is traversed by several fences. There are eight reservoirs, most of which are in the northern third of the subunit. There are also several ways and an abandoned trail that penetrate the area. All the intrusions are substantially unnoticeable due to the flatness of the terrain and the concealing effects of the sagebrush.

Solitude: Most of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is relatively large, and the rolling hills offer topographic screening. The canyons offer outstanding opportunities to achieve solitude. The lack of vegetative screening is compensated for by the unit's large size and the topographic screening.

A 1,160-acre narrow finger of roadless land in the southwest corner extends outside the bulk of the unit. It is one mile wide at it's widest point and two miles long. The terrain is flat and lacks any vegetative screening. The strip lies between a road and private property. There is no opportunity for solitude in this area.

Recreation: There are outstanding opportunities for hunting, camping, backpacking, fishing, sightseeing, photography, and horseback riding in most of the unit. Some of the terrain lends itself to easy walking and riding while other portions are extremely challenging. There are many camping locations. The narrow neck in the southwest corner does not offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. Users would be confined to too small an area to enjoy primitive recreational activities.

Supplemental Values: An old pioneer wagon route cuts through the unit. Old lakebeds and canyons offer opportunities for geological study. The unit contains wild horses and antelope.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 78,920-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,160-acres from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision. One of the fourteen suggests that all of Subunit 3-173A be included in the WSA. One comment provides information about possible roads and argues that much of Subunit 3-173A lacks wilderness values. One comment supports the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review. but does not refer to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate 87,200 acres of Subunit A as a wilderness study area. A more accurate calculation of the unit's size using an electronic planimeter resulted in the new acreage. Eliminate 1,160 acres of Subunit A from further review and eliminate subunits B, C, D, and E.

Rationale: The proposed wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of man's work and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area lacking wilderness characteristics is a narrow finger of roadless land extending outside the bulk of the unit; it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Subunits B, C, D, and E do not meet any of the size criteria for wilderness study areas.

The comment that recommends that the entire subunit be designated as a WSA to allow for "more detailed study" refers to the 1,160-acre portion along the western boundary. The purpose of the inventory is to identify those areas that qualify for study. For the reasons listed in the narrative, this portion does not. Consequently, it is eliminated from further wilderness review.

The "roads" which a comment states cross the unit could not be found. Only a few ways enter the unit, only one crosses it. The old wagon route is barely discernable. It is believed that the comment refers to roads south of the unit, around Units 3-172 and 3-191, or in Nevada. The comment also states that "much of the area does not contain wilderness characteristics". Field re-examination reaffirmed that the area does have such characteristics. For the reasons listed above, the unit qualifies for wilderness study.

Unit Number: 3-178

Unit Name: Rattlesnake Creek

Description

Size: The unit contains 58,400 acres, including 2,640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: 20 miles southeast of Burns Junction.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit contains two pronounced canyons in the west portion, Rattlesnake Creek and Chimney Creek. Rattlesnake is the most dramatic. The west boundary runs through Chimney Creek Canyon. To the east, the remainder of the unit consists of sagebrush flats and some low rolling hills. Peacock Lake is located along the eastern boundary. The vegetation is sagebrush and grass. Many of the slopes are mostly grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: An aerial brush control project was carried out on 9,200 acres in the center of the unit in 1964. Portions of the project edge are still substantially noticeable, but the vegetative composition in other portions is similar to adjacent untreated lands.

The reservoir development around Peacock Lake is substantially noticeable. The concentration of livestock around the reservoir has resulted in noticeable trampling of the area. Concentrated grazing also has detracted from the apparent naturalness of Rattlesnake Canyon.

Nine other reservoirs are substantially unnoticeable because they are small and are located in gullies. Most of them are in the northeast portion of the unit. Three are in the southwest; one of is on the southwest boundary road.

The unit is traversed in two places by north-south fencelines. One fenceline heads west from the unit center and then turns up Rattlesnake Canyon. The fences are substantially unnoticeable.

Several north-south ways cross the unit. One was originally improved but is no longer regularly used or maintained. They are substantially unnoticeable because they are situated in gullies or rolling hills and are hidden from view.

Because of the large number of developments and their location throughout the unit, their cumulative effect detracts significantly from the unit's naturalness. It does not appear to be generally free of the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is seven miles wide and 13 miles long. The size and shape of the unit contribute to an opportunity for solitude. However, the lack of significant variation in the terrain and lack of vegetative screening make it difficult for a user to avoid others in the unit. The most pronounced relief is in Rattlesnake Canyon. However, it is only six miles long, narrow, and deep. Users could not avoid other parties. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and sightseeing. The opportunities are not outstanding because the topography is not diverse or unique.

Supplemental Values: The only known supplemental value is the scenic views from within the Rattlesnake Canyon.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. Two suggest combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear natural because of the cumulative impact of the numerous intrusions. The works of man are substantially noticeable in scattered portions of the unit and natural ecosystems have been noticeably altered. The unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude nor an outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-178 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for futher review.

One comment supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-179

Unit Name: Rawhide

Description

Size: 21,740 acres.

Location: Approximately 30 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and 12 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing on the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by private land and county and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The terrain over approximately 90 percent of the unit ranges from flat to gently rolling hills. The major topographic relief is the Antelope Creek and Field Creek drainages. Rimrock extends along some of the shallow, narrow drainages in the southeast. The vegetation consists of a crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses, and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are approximately 34 miles of ways, eight and one-half miles of pipeline, one 10,000-gallon water storage tank, five livestock watering troughs, 14 and one-half miles of fence, five reservoirs, one watering pit, 2,720 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding and an old 1,600-acre burn. The 2,720-acre seeding is substantially noticeable in the west central part of the unit due to the presence of furrows. Individually, the other intrusions do not appear to be noticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills. However, the cumulative effect of the intrusions becomes substantially noticeable because of their proximity to one another. A user moving through the unit would see many of them. The unit does not appear to be generally free from the works of man.

Solitude: The unit is approximately eleven miles by five miles at its greatest dimensions. Except for the Antelope Creek and Field Creek drainages, the majority of the unit is relatively flat. There is a limited opportunity for solitude in the drainages. The draws are narrow and shallow and would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with other parties. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. Because of its shape and the general lack of topographic and vegetative screening the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for antelope, deer and chukar hunting, primitive camping and horseback riding. The opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be substantially free from the works of man. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-179 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for futher review.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-180

Unit Name: High Ridge

Subunits: Unit 3-180 contains 15,500 acres. During the intensive inventory field work, a road was identified in the northeast corner. It divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-180A contains 15,300 acres and Subunit 3-180B contains 200 acres. Subunit 3-180B does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area and therefore is not described in the following narrative.

Subunit Number: 3-180A

Description

Size: 15,300 acres.

Location: Approximately 24 miles northeast of from McDermitt, Nevada, and 18 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on all sides by BLM roads. A dead-end road enters the unit on the east central boundary and parallels a pipeline for two miles.

Physical Characteristics: Ninety five percent of the terrain is flat to gently rolling. The major topographic relief is a ridge with shallow breaks in the west central portion. Some rimrock occurs in a draw in the north portion of the subunit. The vegetation consists of a crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains an airstrip, three reservoirs, one-half mile of canal, 15 miles of fence, two miles of pipeline (including a stock water trough), 1,300 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding with evident furrows, 3,920 acres of brush control, and appproximately 29 miles of ways. Because the number of intrusions, their proximity to each other, and the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the works of man are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately six miles by five miles at its greatest dimensions. A limited opportunity for solitude exists on the ridge in the west central part of the subunit. However, the ridge is narrow and the drainages are shallow. Users could not move about without coming in contact with each other. In the rest of the unit, the relief is gentle and offers little concealment. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The limited topographic relief and vegetation offer few primitive recreation opportunities. Hiking across sagebrush flats, horseback riding, dry camping, hunting and the appreciation of open space are the available recreational opportunities. The subunit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not meet the criteria for a wilderness study area because of the many intrusions, the minimal opportunities for solitude, and the lack of outstanding opportunities for recreation. The other subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-180 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for futher review.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-181

Unit Name: Antelope Creek

Description

Size: 21,380 acres.

Location: 18 miles east of Blue Mountain Pass on U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: Unit 3-181 is bounded by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 98 percent of the unit is relatively flat. The only relief in the unit is the Antelope Creek drainage. Rimrock outcrops along the narrow, shallow drainages of Antelope Creek. The vegetation consists of an 11,200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, native grasses, and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains an 11,200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding (with furrows still apparent), approximately 32 miles of ways, five miles of pipeline, ten miles of fence, a cow camp, three stock water troughs, one wildlife guzzler, and three reservoirs. Except for the seeding, the individual intrusions would not appear substantially noticeable. When all of them are considered, however, they are substantially noticeable. A user moving through the area would not be able to avoid the works of man for any appreciable amount of time.

Solitude: Because the unit is relatively flat, a visitor easily would be able to observe activity anywhere in the unit except for the Antelope Creek drainage. The drainage is narrow and shallow and does not provide a great degeee of solitude. There is no vegetative screening in the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are few opportunities for primitive recreation due to the uniform topography and vegetation within the unit. A user could hike across sagebrush flats, ride horseback, dry camp and hunt. However, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of the lack of challenging terrain, points of interest, attrative sights or landmarks, low game populations, and secluded sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and three oppose it. One provides no support for the position, and one argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The cumulative affect of the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable within the unit. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Three comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-181 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for futher review.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-182

Unit Name: Red Rocks

Subunits: After the initial inventory, Unit 3-182 contained 22,400 acres. During the intensive inventory it was found that the unit was divided by a road, thereby resulting in the identification of two subunits, Subunits 3-182A and 3-182B contain 10,200 and 12,200 acres, respectively.

Subunit Number: 3-182A

Description

Size: 10,200 acres, including 480 acres of State lands in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately 22 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and 18 miles southwest of the Three Forks crossing on the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: BLM roads except for some private property along the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the subunit is flat to gently rolling. The only noticeable relief is the Little Snake drainage. The drainage is shallow, narrow, and approximately three and one-half miles long. The only rimrock in the unit is located in this drainage. Vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains three reservoirs, one aircraft landing field, three-quarters of a mile of fenceline, and ten miles of ways. The way into Little Snake Reservoir is heavily used by fisherman. Because of their low profile and the relatively flat terrain, the developments are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers no vegetative screening. It is approximately four and one-half miles wide and five miles long at its greatest dimensions and narrows to less than one mile on the south end. The subunit's small size and narrow shape would confine users to a relatively small area. The Little Snake drainage is the major topographic relief. It offers limited solitude because it is narrow and shallow and would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with other parties. The subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: People hunt deer and antelope in the subunit now and fish in the Little Snake Reservoir. People could also ride horses and camp in the subunit. However, opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Refer to the end of the unit description for the summary of public comments and the final decision.

Subunit Number: 3-182B

Description

Size: 12,200 acres, including 800 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately seven miles east of Blue Mountain Reservoir near U.S. Highway 95, 23 miles north of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: BLM roads except private land along portions of the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Ninty-five percent of Subunit 3-182B is flat to gently rolling. Battle Creek and Rattlesnake Creek are two noticeable drainages. The major topographic relief in the two drainages is on private land. Rattlesnake Creek contains approximately one and one-half miles of shallow rimrock on public land and Battle Creek contains no rimrock on public land. The vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains approximately ten miles of ways, ten miles of fence, and three reservoirs. Individually, the developments are not noticeable because of their small size and limited topographic screening. However, the cumulative effect of the developments is substantially noticeable due to their number and proximity to one another. A user moving through the subunit could not walk far without seeing one or more of them.

Solitude: The subunit is approximately two miles wide and five miles long at its greatest dimensions. The subunit's limited size and narrow shape would tend to confine users. The Battle Creek and Rattlesnake Creek drainages would not provide significant opportunities for solitude because the Battle Creek and Potomac Ranch operations are located in the drainages and are separated only by four miles. The remainder of the unit is flat to gently rolling with virtually no vegetative screening. Due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening, its shape, and relatively small size, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Deer, antelope and chukar hunting are the primary recreational pursuits in the area. Other opportunities would include primitive camping, horseback riding, and the general appreciation of open space. Outstanding opportunities for recreation do not exist because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments and Final Decisions for Both Subunits

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate both subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Both subunits do not appear to be generally natural. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-182 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for futher review.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-183

Unit Name: Deadhorse

Subunits: Unit 3-183 contains 16,300 acres. Two roads identified divide the unit into three subunits: Subunit A (15,900 acres), Subunit B (320 acres) and Subunit C (80 acres). Subunits B and C do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wildernes study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-183A

Description

Size: 15,900 acres, including 1,200 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: 20 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada, and eight miles east of U.S. Highway 95.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 75 percent of the subunit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. The major topographic relief is the Rattlesnake and Deer Creek drainages. Shallow rimrock outcrops along the drainages. The remaining 25 percent of the terrain is rolling hills and ridges. Vegetation consists of native grasses and low sagebrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The subunit contains 22 miles of ways, 19 miles of fence, seven reservoirs and five spring developments. Individually, they do not appear to be noticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills. However, the cumulative effect of the developments is substantially noticeable because of their number and proximity to one another. They would appear to dominate the landscape to a person walking through the subunit.

Solitude: The subunit is approximately eight and one-half miles by four and one-half miles at its greatest dimensions. The subunit's modest size and narrow shape would tend to confine users. The Rattlesnake and Deer Creek drainages would not provide significant opportunities for solitude because they are narrow and shallow. They would not allow users to move about with coming into contact with each other. There is virtually no vegetative screening in the subunit. Because of the subunit's shape and lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the subunit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The topography and vegetation do not offer many opportunities for primitive recreation. Antelope and deer hunting are existing recreational pursuits. Horseback riding, primitive dry camping, and hiking through sagebrush terrain are other opportunities. The opportunities are not outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain, natural settings, and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and three oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. One argues that the imprints of human activities are not substantially noticeable and that the opportunities for horseback riding are outstanding. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A does not appear to be generally natural due to the magnitude of man's developments. The area also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. All of the other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-183 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

A comment stated the cumulative impact of the developments is not substantially noticeable. While individually the intrusions (ways, fences, reservoirs and spring development) are substantially unnoticeable, their extent and magnitude in relationship to the size of the unit result in a high frequency of contact. Consequently the cumulative impact is substantially noticeable.

A comment stated the horseback riding was outstanding because of the rolling hills. Approximately 1/4 of the unit consists of rolling hills which by itself does not constitute an outstanding opportunity for horseback riding. Other factors such as scenic quality, wildlife viewing, available water, livestock feed, hazards and obstructions, rockyness, fences, trails, and unique or interesting attractions need also to be considered.

Unit Number: 3-186

Unit Name: Field Creek

Description

Size: 11,580 acres, including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired.

Location: Approximately 12 miles northeast of Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation and 24 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads.

Physical Characteristics: The unit includes a high plateau gently sloping to the north-northeast. Ninty seven percent of the area contains shallow drainages and flat to low rolling terrain. Field Creek is in the northeast corner and is the dominant topographic feature. Shallow outcrops of rimrock exist along Field Creek. The vegetation is low sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains approximately six miles of ways, one spring development and one stock water reservoir. The developments are substantially unnoticeable because they are few in number and are dispersed throughout the unit.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited because the terrain would not allow users to move about without coming in contact with each other. From the center of the unit, it is one and one-half miles to the east and west boundaries, and two and one-half miles to the north and south boundaries. There is virtually no vegetative screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its shape and absence of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: People hunt deer, antelope and sagegrouse in the unit. Primitive camping, horseback riding and hiking across sagebrush flats could also be considered opportunities. However, due to the lack of interesting or challenging terrain unique or unusual sites, opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and two oppose it. One argues that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are excellent and that the area has supplemental values. The other suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears to be generally free from the imprint of man's work. However, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

Two comments stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-186 is divided from other units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

Unit Number: 3-188

Unit Name: Star Valley

Description

Size: 10,320 acres.

Location: Approximately 22 miles northeast of McDermitt, Nevada and one mile southeast of Anderson Crossing on the Little Owyhee River in Louse Canyon.

Boundaries: BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: There is virtually no topographic relief in the unit. The terrain slopes gently to the east-northeast, but appears to be flat. The vegetation is native grasses and low sagebrush. There are no rock outcrops or rimrock in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains one reservoir and 15 miles of ways. Two of the ways are bladed and are substantially noticeable. The bladed ways lack regular and continuous use and do not meet the Bureau's road definition. The bladed way from the east boundary road to the north boundary road is approximately one-half mile long. The way from the west boundary to the east boundary is also bladed and is approximately five miles long. The remaining eight and one-half miles of ways are close to each other. A person walking through the unit would see many of them. Individually, the ways do not appear noticeable. However, the cumulative effect of the ways is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit is approximately five miles by four miles at its greatest dimensions. There is virtually no vegetative or topographic screening. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its limited size, shape, and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: The topography and vegetation would limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Antelope hunting is the only current recreational pursuit. People also could camp, hiking across sagebrush flats and ride horseback. None of these opportunities are outstanding because of the lack of interesting or challenging terrain and unique or unusual sites.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One supports the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment suggests combining the unit with fifteen other units to form a large Owyhee Basin WSA that would have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear to be generally free of the works of man. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

A comment agreed with the proposed decision.

A comment stated the unit should be included as part of the Owyhee Country cluster WSA because it is part of the overall watershed. The Bureau's mandate expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is to review roadless areas for their wilderness potential. Unit 3-188 is divided from the other Owyhee Country cluster units by roads. It must possess wilderness characteristics as an individual separate roadless unit to qualify for further review.

Unit Number: 3-191/NV-020-810

Unit Name: Cairn "C"

Subunits: The unit contains 11,660 acres; 7,960 in Oregon and 3,700 in Nevada. During the intensive inventory, a road was identified in the northwest portion. The road divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit 3-191B is 160 acres and does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area; it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-191A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 11,500 acres of public land; 7,800 acres including 640 acres of State land in the process of being acquired are in Oregon, and 3,700 acres are in Nevada.

Location: Six miles south of Anderson Crossing of the Little Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The subunit is bounded by roads except for two small parcels of private land along the northwest and southeast boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit consists of low rolling hills and flats with little change in topography except for a few narrow ravines and shallow drainages lined with rimrock. Vegetation is mostly sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions in the subunit include two developed springs, six miles of ways, and six miles of fence. Approximately three miles of the fenceline are bladed. The developed springs are substantially unnoticeable due to the minor disturbance involved. The ways and fencelines are also substantially unnoticeable due to the vegetative screening provided by the short sagebrush on the relatively flat terrain. The subunit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the absence of vegetative and topographic screening and its relatively small size.

Recreation: There is no outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation in this unit because the uniform topography and vegetation do not offering any interesting, or unique points of interest.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate all of the subunits from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Subunit A appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, the subunit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The other subunits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

One comment was received agreeing with the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 3-194/ID-106-48A

Unit Name: Lookout Butte

Note: The proposed decision on this unit was announced in March 1980. The final decision is being deferred because the contiguous lands in Idaho are under an appeal of an initial inventory decision. Because of the appeal, the Idaho State Director has not issued a proposed intensive inventory decision for the Idaho portion of this interstate unit. When the appeal is resolved and the Idaho State Director announces a proposed intensive inventory decision, the Oregon State Director will reopen the public comment period for Unit 3-194 so the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the interstate unit as a complete entity. The final decision will be announced concurrently by the two states. A description of the unit and a summary of public comments is in Appendix B.

Unit Number: 3-195/ID-106-48B

Unit Name: Owyhee Canyon

Note: The proposed decision on this unit was announced in March 1980. The final decision is being deferred because the contiguous lands in Idaho are under an appeal of an initial inventory decision. Because of the appeal, the Idaho State Director has not issued a proposed intensive inventory decision for the Idaho portion of this interstate unit. When the appeal is resolved and the Idaho State Director announces a proposed intensive inventory decision, the Oregon State Director will reopen the public comment period for Unit 3-195 so the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the interstate unit as a complete entity. The final decision will be announced concurrently by the two states. A description of the unit and a summary of public comments is in Appendix B.

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT

Unit Number: 5-5

Unit Name: Horse Ridge (This unit includes the 600-acre Western Juniper Instant Study Area)

Introduction: This unit entirely surrounds the Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area (RNA). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directed the Secretary of the Interior to report by July 1980 on the wilderness suitability of all primitive and natural areas designated before November 1, 1975. Therefore, BLM accelerated the schedule of the wilderness review of the five RNAs in Oregon. The preliminary finding, announced in April 1979, was that the Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) RNA does not have wilderness characteristics. The final determination, announced in August 1979, was that the 600-acre RNA does not have wilderness characteristics when it stands alone, but that it should be re-evaluated as part of the larger inventory unit which surrounds it. The following summary describes the intensive inventory of the larger unit, including the RNA.

Description

Size: 4,855 acres.

Location: 19 miles southeast of Bend, and directly south of State Highway 20.

Boundaries: BLM and state roads, and private inholdings.

Physical Characteristics: The topography contains Horse Ridge and Horse Ridge Summit, which are steep sloped basalt hills. A small jagged rim of Columbia River Basalt is parallel to the southern boundary of the unit. The vegetation is dominated by dense stands of western juniper, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, threadleaf sedge, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit does not meet the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by human activities and no longer remain in a generally natural condition. Over two miles of old U.S. Highway 20 (abandoned and now considered a way) are substantially noticeable.

The ways remaining in the northern half of this unit are generally reverting back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Two ways (totaling two miles in length) are highly unnatural. There are also 13 miles of fence, two miles of dirt bike ways, and an abandoned junk car. The remaining portions of the unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude area are not available within this unit. The small size and the lack of both the vegetative and topographic screening mean that a visitor to this area would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are several primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities available within this unit, such as hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. None of these activities are outstanding because there are no points of interest to attract visitors to this unit, and there is a limited amount of diversity of vegetation and topography. The size, shape and physical attributes of this unit do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: The 600 acre Western Juniper (Horse Ridge) Research Natural Area is located within the boundaries of this unit. It was established in 1967 to preserve a nearly pristine example of the western juniper/big/sage/threadleaf sedge plant community.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One supports the proposed decision; and the other disagrees with it, stating the unit is natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. The latter comment says that hunting and bird-watching are excellent, and requests the off-road vehicles be kept out of the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although there are several areas where the works of man are substantially noticeable, the majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It remains clear, however, that opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding due to the unit's relative small size, narrow configuration, and a limited amount of vegetation and topographic screening.

Primitive and unconfined types of recreation activities such as botanic studies, sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation are available within this unit. These opportunities are also less than outstanding, due to the lack of exceptional or unusual recreational attractions, natural features, and relatively small size of this unit.

The comment on off-road vehicles has been reported to the appropriate Area Manager.

Unit Number: 5-6

Unit Name: Lower John Day

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 21,945 acres. In response to a public comment a route east of Owen's Basin that had been identified as a way was re-examined and determined to be a road. This road divides the unit into two subunits. Subunit B contains 2,335 acres, does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas, and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-6A

Description

Size: This subunit contains 19,610 acres of public land. There are no State inholdings, but there are 720 acres of private property within the unit.

Location: The northern portion of this unit begins approximately three and one-half miles south of Cottonwood Bridge (13 miles east of Moro, on State Highway 206). This unit extends to the south along the John Day River for about 27 miles, ending five miles north of Thirtymile Creek.

Boundaries: The boundaries of this subunit are formed by roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately 35 miles of the John Day River are contained in this subunit. It is long and narrow with a very irregular configuration, resulting from a fragmented land ownership pattern.

The subunit contains a wide variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. Reddish brown canyons rise up to 1,500 feet above the John Day River. Thousands of years of erosion have cut the canyons, leaving unique combinations, textures, and sizes of basalt pillars, columns, isolated escarpments, horizontal walls, blocks, and small plateaus that rise in irregular stepladder fashions along the mountain sides.

The vegetation is generally dominated by Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass along the canyon slopes, with juniper trees scattered throughout the area. Big sage and hackberry trees are also found in many areas. Rabbitbrush, cactus, lupine, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced species of grasses, forbs and sage can also be found.

There are many scenic side canyons, but they run into privately owned property within a very short distance of the John Day River.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: Roads lead down to the John Day River along Rose Briar Canyon, just west of Horseshoe Bend, down Buckskin Canyon, and east of Penny Spring. Other roads extend into the unit for a short distance east of McInnes Norton Ridge, northeast of Wilson Point, and north of Dipping Vat Spring. Several ways were also found by Horse Pasture Spring (one-half mile in length), northwest of Horseshoe Bend (one-half mile), north and east of Potlatch Canyon (one and one-half miles), north of Buckskin Canyon (one mile), south and east of Spring Canyon (two and one-half miles), and east up Ferry Canyon (two and one-half miles). There are also several miles of fence and a few developed springs. These fences, ways, and developed springs do not dominate the landscape because of their low visual contrast with the surrounding environment. The cumulative effect of these human improvements is limited, and the landscape appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist along the John Day River. The feeling of being alone in an isolated and uninhabited area is a dominant impression in the massive canyons along the river. It would also be relatively easy for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the narrow, twisting canyons.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude also exist in several isolated river coves, plateaus, and side canyons within the unit.

An airport located on private land could detract from the quality of solitude in its immediate vicinity. Air traffic appeared fairly infrequent.

On the uplands above the river, 240 acres are located in narrow fingers of public land which lack the size, shape, topographic and vegetative screening that would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The subunit provides outstanding opportunities for river running in particular. Usually, during the spring and early summer months there is sufficient water to successfully run the John Day River. Although the river contains only one Class IV rapid (Clarno rapids), even experienced river runners could enjoy a river trip through the John Day Canyons. In addition there are outstanding opportunities for backpacking, fishing, mountain climbing, rock climbing, photography, birdwatching, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. The narrow fingers of public land do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: A variety of Columbia River Basalt formations offer interesting geological features. In addition, this inventory unit contains raptor habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 19,370 acres. Eliminate 2,575 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Eighteen comments were received. Fifteen concur with the proposed decision; eight saying the unit meets the naturalness, solitude and recreation criteria. One comment stated the unit contains a variety of wildlife and geological features; and another said it contains supplemental values. One comment asked that a larger study area be designated, but did not say where or why.

Two comments oppose the proposed WSA because the unit contains 720 acres of private land. One comment said that the unit contains four roads and private land and asks that the northern boundary be moved south to an east-west line at the mouth of Ferry Canyon, provided owners of private land in the vicinity agree. One comment concurs with the decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not refer to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 19,370-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Eliminate 240 acres of Subunit A from further wilderness review. Eliminate Subunit B from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for several kinds of primitive and unconfined recreation. The areas eliminated from Subunit A are narrow fingers which do not have outstanding opportunities for either solitude or recreation. Subunit B is eliminated because it does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

The information about possible roads provided in one comment was checked in the field. Of the four routes identified in the comment, one forms the boundary between Subunits A and B, one is outside the unit, one is a cherrystem road into Subunit A and one was determined to be a way. The northern boundary could be changed only if there is a road along the east-west line at the mouth of Ferry Canyon. Since there is no road at that location, the northern boundary has not been changed. The presence of public land within an inventory unit does not preclude designation of a WSA. Refer to the subsection on "Non-Federal Lands" in the Introduction to this report for more information on this issue.

Unit Number: 5-8

Unit Name: North Pole Ridge

Description

Size: This unit contains 12,182 acres of public land with 160 acres of private inholdings. Horse Island contains about two acres.

Location: This unit is located approximately six miles north of Clarno.

Boundaries: The eastern and western sides are bounded by private property. The northern boundary is a natural gas pipeline access route and the southern boundary is a combination of a road and private property boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: Approximately six river miles of the John Day River are contained in this unit. The unit has a very long, narrow, irregular shape.

The unit contains a wide variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. The canyon walls rise up to 1,500 feet above the John Day River. Pillars, columns, isolated escarpments, blocks, and small plateaus rise in irregular stepladder fashions along the canyon's sides.

The vegetation is dominated by Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass along the canyon slopes, with juniper trees scattered throughout the area. Big sage and hackberry trees are also found in many areas. Rabbitbrush, cactus, lupine, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced species of grasses, forbs and sage can also be found.

There are several side canyons that are also very scenic, but they run into privately owned property within a very short distance of the John Day River.

Horse Island is relatively flat, but there is some relief in the center. It contains several juniper trees and an understory of big sagebrush, sedge, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several small areas have been altered by the works of man. There is a way in the very southern portion. There is also less than one mile of fence and one primitive developed spring. The cumulative effect of these improvements is minimal and the landscape within this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist along the John Day River. Solitude can be obtained by either floating or hiking down the river (depending upon the time of year). It would be relatively easy for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors because of the size and topography of the unit. Outstanding opportunities for solitude also exist in several isolated river coves, plateaus, and side canyons. Narrow, irregular projections of public land bordered by private land do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: River running is perhaps the most outstanding type of primitive and unconfined recreational activity that could occur in this unit. During the spring and early summer months there is usually sufficient water to successfully run the river. In addition there are outstanding oportunities for backpacking, fishing, mountain climbing, rock climbing, photography, birdwatching, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. The narrow projections of public land do not offer outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a variety of Columbia River Basalt formations. It also contains threatened or endangered raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 6,062 acres. Eliminate 6,120 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Fourteen comments were received. Thirteen concur with the proposed decision to identify a WSA. One concurs with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no reference to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 6,062-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 6,120 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and several kinds of primitive and unconfined recreation. The acres which have been eliminated are in narrow, irregular projections isolated from the WSA. They lack topographic diversity, vegetative screening, and opportunities for unconfined recreational activities. The public comments supported the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 5-9

Unit Name: Spring Basin

Description

Size: This unit contains 6,283 acres of public land. There is a 40-acre parcel of private inholding within the unit.

Location: Approximately three miles southeast of Clarno.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a combination of a county maintained road and private property boundaries. The southern boundary is a combination of roads and private property. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by private property.

Physical Characteristics: Elevations range from 1340 to 2827 feet. The topography is rugged and diversified. Three major steep-sloped canyons almost join each other in the south-central portion. Irregular clusters of juniper trees cover a large portion of the unit, especially in some of the drainages. The understory plants include big sage, green rabbitbrush, snakeweed, buckwheat, hedgehog cactus, bluebunch wheatgrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of the landscape this unit have altered by the works of man. A road extends into the southern portion of this unit for half a mile. A mining claim was filed in 1976 for Morrisonite, but the area shows no recent evidence of mining activity. There are six miles of ways, and approximately three miles of fence within this unit. There is also an old dump in Section 15, T. 8 S., R. 19 E., W.M. The cumulative effect of these improvements on the natural character of the unit is minimal. The unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the impact of human work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in the three canyons which contain a variety of rugged terrain and dense vegetative cover.

Recreation: Several different types of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available within this unit. They include hiking, camping, hunting, and botanic, geologic, and ecologic studies. There are several points of interest where the visitor could view scenic panoramas of the John Day River country. The quality of these attributes is outstanding.

Supplemental Values: This unit supports a rare specie of cacti (Pediocactus Simposonii) and perhaps other rare plant species.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 5,982 acres. Eliminate 301 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Ten comments were received. Eight concur with the proposed decision, with three indicating that the unit meets the naturalness, solitude and recreation criteria. One comment discusses supplemental values, but makes no clear reference to the proposed decision. One comment concurs with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no reference to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 5,982-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 301 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and several kinds of primitive and unconfined recreation. The eliminated areas are narrow projections which do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation. None of the public comments referring to this unit contained information affecting the decision.

Unit Number: 5-10

Unit Name: Mt. Misery

Description

Size: 5,055 acres.

Location: Two miles southwest of Kimberly.

Boundaries: The western portion is bounded by a BLM-maintained road and private property. The southern portion is bounded by a F.A.A. maintained road (leading to a Federal Aircraft Communication Station), and private property. The northern and eastern portions are bounded by private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topographic features are the rugged, reddish-brown bluffs just west of the John Day River. These bluffs are located in the northeast and south portions, rising up to 3,200 feet above the John Day River. Scattered clusters of juniper trees, pine trees, mountain mahogany, and other plants cling to the very steep east-facing slopes of the bluffs. The topography in the northwest portion consists of two canyons formed by First and Second Creeks. Stands of juniper trees occur along the north-facing slopes and bottoms of the canyons. Big and low sage and Idaho fescue are the predominant understory plant species. The west half is part of a relatively flat plateau, with small basins, outcrops of Columbia River Basalt, clusters of juniper trees, a few pine trees, big and low sage, and other plants.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: There is an old wooden corral and a way and a fence that are both less than one mile long in the northwest portion. There is also evidence that pine trees were logged at one time in this area. The cumulative impact of these alterations of the landscape is minimal, because they are limited to a small portion of the unit. The remainder generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit. The small size, very irregular public land ownership pattern, and almost completely impassable topography of the rugged John Day River bluffs, would restrict visitors to limited areas. The remaining portion of the unit above the bluffs is small and confining with a very irregular shape.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. None of these primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities can be experienced in an outstanding manner because of the physical characteristics which confine and seriously restrict movement through this unit.

Supplemental Values: The rugged Columbia River Basalt bluffs are scenic.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One suggests that the river bluffs do offer outstanding opportunities for solitude to those who might venture among them. The other requests that the unit be a WSA because of its proximity to the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The river bluffs within this unit do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. This area is extremely small, and irregular in shape. This is especially apparent along the eastern flank of the unit where the very steep, impassable nature of the bluffs severely contains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

BLM's wilderness inventory guidelines do not make any provisions for designating a wilderness study area based only upon the close proximity of a wilderness inventory unit to a National Monument such as the John Day Fossil Beds.

Unit Number: 5-11

Unit Name: Fossil Beds

Description

Size: 7,623 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles south-southwest of Kimberly.

Boundaries: A BLM maintained road, private property, and the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument form the boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains two large portions of land that are connected by a 40 acre parcel of public land. The shape of this unit is extremely irregular.

The topography in the east half consists of steep-sloped mountains that rise from around 2,800 feet up to 4,777 feet. They form a range that extends in a north-southeast direction. The north-facing slopes are highly dissected by several washes just south of Squaw Creek. The vegetation in this portion includes clusters of juniper trees and a few pine trees scattered along the steep hillsides. The understory includes big sage, currant, green rabbitbrush, salix, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandberg's bluegrass.

A massive, reddish brown, basaltic butte and a steeply sloped mountain range that extends in a east-west direction dominate the landscape in the west half. Clusters of juniper trees are scattered along the steep sides and crests of the mountains and along the foothills of the butte. Bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandberg's bluegrass also grow in this part of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains several areas that have been altered by the works of man. There are seven miles of ways and six miles of fence. These ways are well into the process of reverting back to a natural condition. The cumulative effect of the human disturbances on the overall naturalness of this unit is minimal. The majority of the unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit. The extremely irregular shape of the unit makes it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the same area. The size of this unit would seriously confine visitors to relatively small regions, greatly increasing the chances of encountering other visitors within this same area.

Recreation: Hiking, wildlife, vegetative, and geologic study, photography, hunting, and sightseeing can all be experienced within this unit. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because the unit's small size and irregularly shaped boundary restrict users to relatively small areas.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision, and three oppose it. One urges that BLM reconsider the significance of the unit's irregular shape and consider the adjoining federally owned roadless lands. Another requests that the unit be a WSA because it is adjacent to the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The third comment identifies rugged terrain, hidden canyons with fantastic springs and great vistas as features to support the opinion of identifying this unit as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: BLM's wilderness inventory guidelines do not make any provisions for designating a wilderness study area only because the unit is adjacent to a National Monument such as the John Day Fossil Beds. It is not possible to experience outstanding solitude by avoiding the sights, sounds and evidence of other visitors within this unit. The rugged terrain and steep canyons within this unit are recognized, but the only spring within this area is located in the extreme southwestern portion of the unit. The opportunities offered by these geographic features are extremely limited, however, due to the very irregular shape and small size of the unit. These limiting attributes are the major reasons why opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are less than outstanding.

Unit Name: 5-18

Unit Name: Rocky Canyon

Description

Size: 8,466 acres.

Location: 11 miles south of Prineville.

Boundaries: The west boundary is a utility powerline maintenance road. The east boundary is a BLM road. The south boundary is a county road. The north boundary is a combination of a privately owned road and private inholdings.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of very low rolling hills with little topographic relief, outcroppings of dark brown Columbia River Basalt, and small dry alkali lake beds. Juniper trees dominate the vegetation of this area, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, and other native and introduced plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: This unit contains 586 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding, 11 miles of ways, and five and one-half miles of fence.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available. The size and lack of topographic or vegetative screening prevent a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, sightseeing, photography, and hunting and nature study are available in this unit. None of these recreational activities can be experienced in a truly outstanding manner because this unit contains only a limited diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and three oppose it. The opposing comments suggest that the unit be combined with Unit 5-19 and that the dividing road be rehabilitated. It is suggested that the combined unit has special values as a WSA because of its proximity to Prineville and potential as a day-use wilderness area. One comment mentions that the ways within the unit are revegetating and therefore should not be considered significant detractions from naturalness. Hiking and camping and the fact that the unit could be used in the wintertime are other factors mentioned in favor of identifying the unit as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: In response to the comments suggesting that the road between this unit and Unit 5-19 be closed and rehabilitated, that is beyond the scope of the inventory phase of BLM's wilderness review process. BLM cannot consider rehabilitating a road during the inventory phase if it meets the road definition. The public comments received did not dispute the fact that the road does meet the necessary road criteria. According to BLM's wilderness inventory guidelines an area's proximity to cities is not a criterion used in the wilderness inventory. After re-evaluation, the reasons this unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and outstanding primitive types of recreation remain the same as expressed above. The ways within this unit are slowly reverting back to a natural-appearing condition, but these ways are so numerous that the over all naturalness of the area is marginal. Primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities such as hiking and camping, even during the wintertime, are available within this unit. However, limited amounts of vegetative, topographic, and wildlife diversity along with no unique or unusual points of interest, render the quality of these recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

Unit Number: 5-19

Unit Name: Chimney Rock

Description

Size: 5,120 acres.

Location: Approximately 12 miles south of Prineville.

Boundaries: The north boundary is private property. BLM and county roads and State Highway 27 form the other boundaries.

Physical Characteristics: The eastern portion includes the Crooked River and the western half of the Crooked River Canyon. Vegetation in the east half includes scattered clusters of juniper trees along the steep, basaltic canyon hillsides, a few ponderosa pine trees along the banks of the Crooked River, riparian habitat along the Crooked River, big sage, green rabbitbrush, native bunchgrass, and other plant species. The west half contains dense stands of juniper trees with an understory of big sage, bitterbrush, and native bunchgrass species. The topography in the west is relatively flat and gradually slopes downward to the west.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by man. Several small areas (including the Chimney Rock BLM Campground) contain ways used extensively for fishing and camping. There are also three miles of fence. About 30 acres appear to be unnatural, but the remainder of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The size and shape of the unit, and the confining nature of the topography in the east portion prohibit visitors from experiencing an outstanding opportunity for solitude anywhere in this unit.

Recreation: There are opportunities for fishing, camping, hunting, sightseeing, hiking, horseback riding, and other types of recreation. None of these activities could be experienced in a truly outstanding manner because of the limited diversity of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: Raptor habitat exists along the basaltic cliffs of the Crooked River.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and three oppose it. The opposing comments suggest that the unit be combined with Unit 5-18 and that the dividing road be rehabilitated. It is suggested that the combined unit has special values as a WSA because of its proximity to Prineville and potential as a day-use wilderness area. One comment mentions that the ways within the unit are revegetating and therefore should not be considered significant detractions from naturalness. Hiking and camping and the fact that the unit could be used in the wintertime are other factors mentioned in favor of identifying the unit as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The suggestion that the road between Units 5-19 and 5-18 be closed is beyond the scope of BLM's wilderness inventory process. It is not possible for BLM to consider rehabilitating a road during the inventory phase of the wilderness review process, if it actually meets the road definition. Wilderness study area designation is not to be based upon a unit's proximity to cities. After re-consideration, the reasons this unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation remain as expressed in the above narrative. The "Naturalness" portion states that the ways within this unit do not dominate the landscape and are slowly reverting back to a natural-appearing condition. Hiking and camping are primitive types of recreation that are available within this unit. The quality of these recreational opportunities, however, is less than outstanding due to the small size and irregular shape of this unit, and limited amounts of vegetative and topographic screening. In addition, there are no unusual or unique points of interest in this unit.

Unit Number: 5-20

Unit Name: Alkali Flat

Description

Size: 7,035 acres. An additional 480 acres contiguous to this unit are in the final stages of a state land exchange.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Prineville.

Boundaries: County roads form portions of the west boundary. Other portions are formed by private property. The south boundary is a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: Alkali Butte is the major landmark in this unit. Just north of the butte, the topography is relatively flat for about one mile. North of this area, the terrain consists of high rolling hills surrounding Deer Creek Canyon. South of Alkali Butte is an unnamed canyon extending in an east-west direction. Ponderosa pine grow in the upper portions of this shallow canyon, in the upper portion of Deer Creek Canyon, on Alkali Butte, and also in two areas northeast of Alkali Butte. The remaining portions are dominated by stands of juniper trees in various densities throughout the unit. The understory includes big sage, green rabbitbrush, bunchgrass, cheatgrass, and other plant species. The areas containing ponderosa pine trees have a more diversified number of understory plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several small areas within this unit that have been altered by the works of man. There are three small juniper cutting areas, and five miles of ways in the northwest portion. There are also four and one-half miles of fence. The cumulative effect of these works of man upon the overall primeval character of this unit was minimal because of the topographic and vegetative screening. Most of the juniper cutting areas are reverting back to a natural appearing condition. The remaining portions generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit in spite of the rugged topography in the northern third of this unit. Its very irregular shape and small size (one-fourth to three miles in width) prevent a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the same unit.

Recreation: There are several primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities available within this unit, such as hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. None of these activities are outstanding because there are no significant points of interest to attract visitors to this unit. The size, shape and physical attributes of this unit are not capable of providing an outstanding primitive and unconfined types of recreation experience.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of the latter comments recognizes that the unit has an irregular shape but suggests that refining the boundaries of the unit be a study phase consideration. It requests that the unit be a WSA because of its natural diversity and because the surrounding region is being increasingly affected by wood cutting and off-road vehicle use. The other suggests that the unit has more than enough topographic and vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Two comments recommended this unit be designated a wilderness study area due to the outstanding opportunities for solitude available within this area. The topography and vegetation are generally natural, and conducive to solitude within portions of this unit. After additional field review, however, it remains clear that the small size and poor configuration of this unit seriously confines and intrudes upon any attempts to experience solitude or unconfined primitive types of recreation in an outstanding manner. Boundary refinement of this unit would be contingent upon WSA designation. The reference to wood cutting has been reported to the Deschutes Area Manager. An off-road vehicle management plan for the public lands within the vicinity of Prineville Reservoir is currently being developed.

Unit Number: 5-21

Unit Name: Badlands

Description

Size: This unit contains 33,172 acres. There are also 320 acres of private inholdings that are surrounded by public land.

Location: Approximately nine miles east of Bend.

Boundaries: The northern and southern boundaries are combinations of private property, a BLM road and a county (north boundary only) road. The western boundary is a combination of U.S. Highway 20 and private property. The eastern boundary is a power company maintenance road.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of many rolling hills comprised of jagged dark reddish brown and black Columbia River Basalt outcroppings and escarpments. Light tan sand brought into this region by winds compliments a countless variety of small, irregularly shaped basins and valleys. The dominating feature is the dense western juniper forest which almost covers the entire area. The predominant understory plant species include big sage, grey and green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, squirreltail, needlegrass, phlox, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. There are approximately 48 miles of ways, 19 miles of fence, an abandoned gravel pit, a wildlife guzzler, a stockwater pond, a naturally appearing flagstone mine, a previous BLM woodcutting area covering 3,160 acres located in the northeastern portion, and a large crested wheat seeding located in the southern portion. The 1,118-acre crested wheat seeding area and the stockwater pond (one acre in the extreme northeastern portion) contrast with the surrounding landscape and appear in an unnatural condition. The area also contains an old W.W. II aircraft bombing range. (No military ordnance was discovered during this inventory; however some could still exist.) The old BLM woodcutting area in the northeastern portion of this unit still retains its outstanding vegetative screening, and therefore prevents most of this juniper cutting area from dominating the landscape in any direction for a long distance. Many juniper trees still remain in this area. The area has an excellent chance of being rehabilitated to a naturally-appearing condition. The cumulative effect of the ways scattered throughout this unit, and the other manmade improvements upon the overall naturalness of this landscape is minimal. The majority of the ways within this unit are reverting back to a natural condition. The vegetative screening of the dense stands of juniper trees greatly restricts any visual contrasts between manmade improvements and the surrounding landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available. The unit's size, shape, and outstanding vegetative screening would allow a visitor to easily avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors within this same unit.

Recreation: An outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational activity is possible to experience by hiking through this unit.

Supplemental Values: The combined features of old stands of western juniper trees and the geologic badlands formed from the reddish brown and black Columbia River Basalt are unique in the region.

Proposed Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 32,053 acres. Eliminate 1,119 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision to identify a WSA. One comment concurs with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but makes no reference to the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a wilderness study area of 32,053 acres. Eliminate 1,119 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains outstanding opportunities for both solitude and recreation. Most of it appears to be in a generally natural condition. The acres proposed for elimination are unnatural and include a one-acre stock pond and a recent crested wheatgrass seeding that covers 1,118 acres.

Unit Number: 5-22

Unit Name: Dry River

Description

Size: 6,221 acres.

Location: One mile northwest of Millican.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is a BLM road. The southern boundary is a combination of U.S. Highway 20 and private property. The remaining boundaries are formed by BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The Dry River Canyon is found along the southern boundary. This canyon extends two and one-half miles in a northwest-southeast direction. The canyon was formed by the Dry River, which drained a large ice age lake that once occupied a large area east of Millican Valley. During periods of high water, this ancient lake spilled over a low pass along the eastern portion of Horse Ridge, and cut through the consolidated lava flows, forming this canyon. North of this canyon are two ridges divided by a shallow, elongated valley. These two ridges extend in a northwest-southeast direction.

Vegetation includes scattered clusters of juniper trees with Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, mountain mahogany, grey rabbitbrush, yarrow, an occasional ponderosa pine, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A 62-acre area in the northwestern portion contains a network of ways and a large open gravel pit. In this area the effects of human activities are substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit contains five and one-half miles of ways, three miles of fence, a small spring development, and a road totaling two and three-quarter miles in length. These disturbances do not dominate the landscape within this unit, because most of them are reverting back to a natural condition. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitdue are not available within this unit for several reasons. Dry River Canyon is very confining. A visitor hiking through this canyon would not be able to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people also traveling through the canyon.

The majority of the remaining portions of this unit contain topography and vegetation that would not screen a visitor from the sights and sounds of other people. The small size further restricts visitors from avoiding each other within the unit.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreation are available within this unit, such as hiking, sightseeing, nature study, photography, and hunting. The physical and vegetative characteristics of this unit do not provide outstanding recreational opportunities because this unit contains a limited amount of diversity in its topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: The Dry River Canyon contains raptor nesting trees, a small stand of pine trees, archaeological values, and wildlife observation opportunities.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and three are opposed to it. The naturalness of the unit is not in question, but all three comments suggest that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and that it has supplemental values as well. It is pointed out that the canyon provides opportunities for solitude. Indian pictographs, raptor nests, pine stands and the unique geology of the canyon are identified as significant points of interest that make the recreational opportunities outstanding. It is suggested that the unit provides excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, bird watching, hunting and for anthropological, geological and botanical study.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Re-evaluation of this unit in light of the public comments affirms the previous decision that the unit does not possess outstanding wilderness attributes for several reasons. The limited screening capabilities of the topography and vegetation along with the small size of this area do not provide an environment where a visitor could avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors. The Dry River Canyon does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its impassible, steep walls which confine and limit movement in this area. The short length of this canyon and lack of side canyons further limits options for solitude. The quality of the primitive and unconfined types of recreation that are available within this unit is also less than outstanding for several reasons. The small size and the confining nature of the Dry River Canyon limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The Indian pictographs are actually located outside the boundary of this unit on private property. There are several pine trees and raptors within the Dry River Canyon, but they are supplemental values which cannot alone qualify an area as a WSA. Similarly, though the geologic history of the Dry River Canyon is interesting, it does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Unit Number: 5-23

Unit Name: West Butte

Subunits: The unit contains 16,440 acres of public land. Three roads divide this unit into four subunits, three of which do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas. These small subunits range in size from 648 to 1,379 acres and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-23A

Description

Size: 13,650 acres.

Location: Four miles northeast of Millican.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a power company maintenance road. The southern boundary is a combination of the power company maintenance road, a BLM road, and private property. The eastern boundary consists of private property and two roads. The northern boudnary is a combination of a BLM road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The West Butte Unit is an odd-shaped unit that resembles the letter "U". The majority of the public land is found along the lower and mid-elevation levels of the southwestern, western, and north-facing slopes of West Butte. The top of West Butte is privately owned.

Elevations range from 3,500 feet in the northwest to 5,839 feet at the crest of West Butte. A series of canyons penetrate the northern, western, and southern portions of West Butte for relatively short distances. Western juniper trees cover almost all of the unit, but vary in density. The understory plant species within this unit include Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrass, cheatgrass, green rabbitbrush, and large quantities of big sage.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The presence of a road going down a steep slope of West Butte dominates the landscape of an area of more than 350 acres. In the southern portion of the unit approximately 450 acres are disturbed by two and one-half miles of water pipeline roads and from the impacts of brush control spraying approximately 220 acres.

There are also 12 miles of ways, two stock water reservoirs, and a wildlife guzzler in other parts of the unit. In spite of these developments these portions of this unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. The very confining shape of this unit and the open nature of the topography result in an environment where a visitor cannot avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the unit. Although the juniper trees offer some screening, it is not adequate to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: Camping, photography, nature study, and similar activities could all be experienced within this unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not possible because there is very little diversity of wildlife, vegetation, or topography within this unit. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Coments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Most of the unit appears to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, the opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because of the shape, topography and vegetation of the unit.

Unit Number: 5-31

Unit Name: North Fork

Revision of Unit Boundaries: The unit contains 11,080 acres. Field checking public comments regarding the roads/ways within this unit resulted in the identification of two additional roads meeting the road criteria for wilderness review. The route separating 325 acres on the east side of the unit from the rest of the unit was found to be a road. Another road was found in the southwestern portion of this unit leading to the Teaters Ranch. It separates 10 acres from the rest of the unit. These two subuits do not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and are not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-31A

Description

Size: 10,745 acres of public land, with private inholdings of 560 acres.

Location: Approximately 10 miles northwest of Paulina.

Boundaries: BLM roads on the west and portions of the north and east sides, Forest Service land on parts of the north and private property on parts of the east and the south.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit contains three major topographic features. The most predominant is the North Fork of the Crooked River Canyon. This narrow 800 to 900 foot deep canyon winds for about seven miles through the middle of the unit. Its basalt walls are almost vertical. The vegetation in the Crooked River Canyon is a combination of perennial shrubs and scattered clusters of pine trees.

The other topographic features are the steep-sloped rolling hills west of the Crooked River Canyon and the basalt flows east of the canyon. Many of the drainages dissecting the basalt flows to the east and the rolling hills to the west contain ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, juniper, a variety of shrubs and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are two reservoirs, 17 miles of primitive ways, one mile of road, and about 325 acres that were seeded to orchard grass and crested wheatgrass 20 years ago. The seeding was intended to rehabilitate an area that was burned by a lightning-caused fire. This seeded area now blends in with the surrounding landscape and has a natural appearance. The diverse topographic and vegetative screening effectively prevents the majority of the ways from dominating the landscape. Several ways east of the Crooked River Canyon are more dominant in their appearance upon the landscape. Practically all of these ways are capable of reverting back to a natural condition through the use of hand tools and the forces of nature. At the present time, these ways have very little influence on the wilderness values of the unit. The majority of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this subunit. Although it is relatively small, there are many side canyons leading to the east and west of the Crooked River Canyon. A visitor would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within this subunit because these side canyons contain ample topographic and vegetative screening. Once down in the Crooked River Canyon, the visitor is encompassed by an interesting variety of highly weathered basalt cliffs within a very secluded canyon that includes one waterfall on public land, and offers outstanding opportunities to observe nature's forces within a canyoned area that is generally untouched by man.

Recreation: There are outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities available within this subunit, including photography, wildlife observation, snowshoeing, cross-county skiing, hiking, camping, and fishing. The diversity and physical challenge of the terrain, many points of interest and outstanding pristine scenery all contribute to providing truly outstanding recreational experiences.

Supplemental Values: There are excellent opportunities to study the geological, botanical, and zoological features within this subunit. The basaltic cliffs contain habitat for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,701-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 379 acres on the eastern boundary because human works are substantially noticeable.

Summary of Public Comments: Seventeen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision, and three oppose it. One comment discusses the unit's wilderness values but makes no clear reference to the proposed decision. All three of the opposing comments suggest that it is not generally natural, because of substantially noticeable roads and ways or because of private lands within the proposed WSA. It is suggested that the sights and sounds of traffic and aircraft detract from opportunities for solitude and that limited access restricts recreational opportunities. One comment provides study phase information that is not pertinent to the inventory decision. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 10,745 acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Eliminate a 325-acre subunit on the east boundary and a 10-acre subunit on the southeastern boundary because they do not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: Subunit A is basically natural, and can provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreational activities, such as hiking, camping, and fishing. The topography, vegetation, and the Crooked River combine to form an area where visitors can observe the forces of nature at work within the areas that are still pristine. Three public comments suggest that this unit is not natural. BLM's wilderness review process requires that a wilderness study area appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. After additional field review of the roads and ways within this unit, two routes on the outer perimeter of this unit were found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria. The remaining ways within Subunit A, however, do not dominate the landscape. The private inholdings within Subunit A do not adversely affect the quality of the wilderness characteristics, because there are several side canyons which permit access around the inholdings and also provide an environment containing outstanding wilderness characteristics. The sights and sounds of vehicles on the roads bordering, or intruding into the subunit are not substantially noticeable. Their locations, the dominant sounds of the rushing waters in the Crooked River Canyon, winds blowing through the trees, and excellent vegetative and topographic screening combine to reduce their impact. Outside sights and sounds, such as air and automobile traffic do not affect inventory decisions unless they are substantially imposing. They do exist in this region, but not to such an extent as to detract from the overall wilderness character of the area.

Unit Number: 5-33

Unit Name: South Fork

Description

Size: 19,660 acres of public land, and 440 acres of private property inholdings.

Location: Approximately 19 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern and southern boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads. The western boundary is a county road. The eastern boundary is a BLM road.

Physical Characteristics: Three major topographic features dominate the South Fork Unit. First, the South Fork of the Crooked River flows in a south to north direction within a steep-walled Columbia River Basalt canyon for over six miles through this unit. The canyon is cut approximately 700 to 800 feet below Twelvemile Table Mesa. Second, the area east of the river is a relatively flat mesa called Twelvemile Table. This mesa provides miles of unobstructed views in every direction. Third, the area west of the South Fork of the Crooked River contains relatively flat to low rolling hills. The northwestern portion contains steeper topography, including Sulphur Butte. The predominant plant species includes low sage and Sandberg's bluegrass on the rocky tableland areas. On the north facing slopes, juniper trees, big sage, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass, and other plant species are found. The western portion of this unit contains relatively dense clusters of juniper trees. Small and isolated juniper trees grow on Twelvemile Table.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A wood pole powerline is substantially noticeable in a 27-acre area near the western boundary. In the northwestern portion of this unit, north of Sulphur Butte, there are two acres in which human works are substantially noticeable.

There are ten constructed reservoirs (all have a water capacity less than one-acre/ft.), three bulldozed cattle ponds, ten miles of ways, and 16 miles of fence in the unit. Several mining claims are recorded in the northwestern portion of this unit.

Three small areas were sprayed and seeded with crested wheatgrass and four-wing saltbrush. The cumulative effect of all the manmade improvements on the landscape is minimal because of the size of the unit, the topographic and vegetative screening and the high potential for many of these improvements to revert back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Many of these developments (such as the reservoirs), blend in well with their surrounding environments and do not dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit because of the size, shape, and topographic and vegetative screening.

Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit. Backpacking, camping, photography, nature study, hunting, fishing for carp, and horseback riding are all possible. One of the outstanding recreational activities is a hike along the bottom of the South Fork of the Crooked River Canyon. Once a visitor is down by the river, the feeling of being alone and engulfed by the vastness of the canyon is strong. The geologic formations within this canyon are impressive. The Crooked River has eroded through approximately 700 to 800 feet of basalt exposing numerous combinations of reddish-tan, dark brown, and black columns. These formations add to the scenic beauty and diversity. The canyon twists and turns, never exposing itself all at once. Several side canyons such as Pickett Canyon, also enhance the opportunity to hike and explore.

Supplemental Values: The Crooked River Canyon contains interesting Columbia River Basalt formations. This unit also is habitat for raptors.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 19,631-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 29 acres in which human works are substantially noticeable.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Twelve concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of the opposing comments suggests that ways and prospector's excavations detract from naturalness. This comment also provides study phase information about possible mineral resources. The other comment suggests that the reservoirs and other water developments within the unit are substantially noticeable, and it objects to private lands within a proposed WSA. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate 19,631 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 29 acres that no longer remain in a natural condition from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is generally free of the imprints of human activities and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The canyon of the South Fork of the Crooked River offers a variety of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The imprints of human work are substantially noticeable in the area proposed for elimination from further wilderness review. The comment suggesting that ways and prospector's excavations detract from the naturalness of this unit was considered. The only portion of this unit containing prospector's excavations has been excluded from the WSA. The ways and water developments within this unit were again determined to be substantially unnoticeable, because they are reverting back to a natural condition, and the excellent topographic and vegetative screening shield them from view. The private inholdings within this unit do not impair the outstanding wilderness characteristics that exist within this area. The effect of potential wilderness designation upon private inholdings and potential mineral resources will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review.

Unit Number: 5-34

Unit Name: Sand Hollow

Description

Size: 8,820 acres.

Location: The unit is approximately 21 miles north-northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western and southern boundaries are county roads. The northern and eastern boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is a combination of low rolling hills interlaced with higher rolling hills that extend in an east-west direction, forming part of the Steens Ridge. There is a relatively open desert plateau in the central portions of the unit. The western and northern portions are characterized by rugged, dark brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments. Different sizes and densities of juniper trees are scattered throughout this unit. The understory plant species include low and big sage, green and grey rabbitbrush, lupine, snowberry, Idaho fescue, Sandberg's Bluegrass, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several areas within this unit where human works dominate the landscape. A crested wheatgrass seeding is substantially noticeable in a 26-acre area near the western boundary. In the northern portion a road and a constructed way which is no longer maintained dominate the landscape in two-acre area. A constructed reservoir located in the eastern portion of this unit is also substantially noticeable.

There are other constructed reservoirs, two bulldozed cattle ponds, three miles of ways, and seven miles of fence in the unit. The cumulative effect of these developments on the landscape is minimal because of the topographic relief and vegetative screening provided by the juniper trees. The impacts of these developments are generally noticeable only within a short distance of their location, and do not dominate the landscape.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within this unit because the topographic relief and the vegetative screening of the juniper trees provide an environment where a visitor could avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within this same area.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available. Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, hunting, photography, and nature study. However, opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because of the limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate an 8,791-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 29 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comment: Twelve comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of the opposing comments suggests that the unit lacks naturalness because of substantially noticeable ways and prospector's excavations. This comment also provides study phase information about possible mineral resources. The other comment suggests that the reservoirs and other water developments within the unit are substantially noticeable. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate an 8,791-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 29 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The wilderness study area is basically natural, and possesses the topographic relief and vegetative screening capabilities necessary for visitors to avoid one another within this same unit. The lands eliminated from further review contain developments which are substantially noticeable.

The comment stating that prospector's excavations and ways are substantially noticeable within this unit was evaluated. There are no prospector's excavations apparent within this unit. The ways within the unit do not dominate the landscape because of the excellent vegetative and topographic screening. The reservoirs and ponds within this area are relatively small, isolated in small basins and visually hidden. The potential mineral resources this area contains will be considered during the study phase.

Unit Number: 5-35

Unit Name: Gerry Mountain

Description

Size: 21,840 acres of public land; 640 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 15 miles north-northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are county roads. The western boundary is a combination of a road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is relatively square-shaped and contains Gerry Mountain, Moon Mountain and Mule Point. Gerry Mountain is a major topographic feature, rising 1,100 feet above the surrounding terrain to an elevation of 5,200 feet. Excellent scenic vistas are available in all directions from this butte-shaped mountain. Surrounding Gerry Mountain and the other two smaller hills are a variety of low rolling hills and small enclosed basins. The northern, western, and central portions contain stands of juniper trees.

The northeastern portion is relatively flat with a few clusters of juniper trees. The understory plant species include big sage, green rabbitbrush, lupine, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Approximately 575 acres in the northern and eastern portions appear to be essentially unnatural due to a narrow strip of crested wheat grass south of the northern boundary and a wood pole powerline located west of and parallel to, the eastern boundary and south of the northern boundary. An apparently active mining area, one reservoir, and a road are also substantially noticeable in this area.

About 1,200 acres in the valleys of the eastern portion of this unit were once seeded with crested wheat-grass. The invasion of big sage, green rabbitbrush, lupine, and other plants over the years has transformed this area into essentially natural-appearing valleys. There are also 11 reservoirs, 12 miles of ways, and 24 miles of fence. The visual impact of the reservoirs and ways is generally restricted to a small area around them. Several ways and reservoirs are progressing toward blending in with their surrounding environment. In general, the majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available in this unit. A large portion of the unit has sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors. The size and shape of most of the unit also contribute to the outstanding opportunities for solitude. One exception is where irregular projections of public land would confine visitory to narrow corridors. These narrow projections contain 565 acres.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities could be experienced, such as hiking, hunting, nature study and camping. None of the opportunities for these activities would be outstanding because this unit contains limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. Gerry Mountain is a point of interest within this unit, but it isn't a unique or a peerless topographic feature.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 20,700-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,140 acres from further wilderness review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received. Ten concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One comment discusses supplemental values without making a clear reference to the proposed decision. One comment expresses concern about a stock watering pond but does not refer to the proposed decision. One of the opposing comments suggests that the unit lacks naturalness because of substantially noticeable ways and prospector's excavations. This comment also provides study phase information about possible mineral resources. The other comment objects to there being private land within a proposed WSA and suggests that the reservoirs within the unit are substantially noticeable. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 20,700 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,140 acres from further review because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Rationale: A small portion of this unit has been altered by the works of man. The remaining portions of the unit contain human developments which are not substantially noticeable. The large size and shape and the topographic and vegetative screening result in an area which has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The imprints of human work are substantially noticeable in 575 acres. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are not outstanding in 565 acres because of the configuration of, and restricted access to, the narrow projections. The comments regarding a stock water pond reservoir and ways were evaluated. Several reservoirs and ponds within this unit are small, isolated in small basins, and are generally covered by vegetation. There are also several miles of ways within this unit but because of the large size of this unit, the irregular use of the ways, and the excellent topographic and vegetative screening their impacts are not substantially noticeable. The mining excavations within this unit have been eliminated from the WSA. Potential mineral resources within this unit will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review. With the elimination of the narrow projections in the northwest corner of the unit, the private lands referred to as inholdings are no longer completely surrounded by the WSA.

Unit Number: 5-36

Unit Name: Redman Rim

Description

Size: 12,823 acres of public land.

Location: 13 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The western boundary is private property. The southern and eastern boundaries are formed by BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The most dominant topographic feature is Redman Rim. It is approximately one and one-half miles long and up to one and one-fourth mile wide. It rises approximately 1,000 feet above the surrounding landscape and is rimmed with dark brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments and outcroppings. The slopes that extend in all directions away from Redman Rim contain 80 to 90 degree slopes. The top of the rim is relatively flat, and there are clusters of juniper trees scattered on its sides and top. Ibex Butte is located a short distance southeast of Redman Rim, and is also a distinguishing landmark. It rises approximately 650 feet and is shaped like a pyramid. The topography in the remaining portions consists of several gradually sloping basins and high rolling hills that generally slope either to the north or south. Within these shallow basins are clusters of juniper trees, especially in the mid-northern portion. There are also two small canyons. The vegetation includes clusters of juniper trees, big sage, low sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and a variety of other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several areas have been affected by human developments. In the extreme southwestern portion, 565 acres were seeded with crested wheatgrass; this area is very unnatural in appearance. There are six bulldozed cattle ponds, ten miles of ways, and six miles of fence. The cumulative effect of these developments upon the overall primeval character of the landscape is minimal. The majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because the topographic relief and vegetation do not provide effective screening that would enable a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the unit.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, camping, nature study, wildlife observation, hunting, and photography are available within this unit. Opportunities for these recreational activities, however, would not be outstanding because the topography, vegetation, and wildlife in this unit are not diverse. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter suggests that there are excellent opportunities for solitude in the north canyon and good opportunities for fishing and wildlife observation.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is essentially natural, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. The comment stating that there are excellent opportunities for solitude, fishing, and wildlife observation in the north canyon may be correct; however, the north canyon is on private property and is not contained within the boundaries of this unit. Re-evaluation of this unit confirms the decision that opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined types of recreation are less than outstanding. There are relatively few areas within this unit that contain topographic and vegetative diversity. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking, camping, nature study, wildlife observation, hunting and photography are available within this unit, but none are outstanding because the unit contains a limited amount of diversity in the form of topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Unit Number: 5-40

Unit Name: Sears Creek

Description

Size: 11,980 acres.

Location: 12 miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern and western boundaries are a combination of a BLM road and private property. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private and state land. The southern boundary is a road.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of relatively low, rolling hills that are often dissected by deep drainages usually sloping to the south. The southeastern portion contains a gradually sloping basin. The topography in the northeastern and southwestern portions is more varied with several small ravines and hills. Local relief is greater than in the southeastern portion. This unit also contains a canyon that extends in a east-west direction for one and one-half miles. It is approximately 160 feet deep and is rimmed with reddish brown Columbia River Basalt. The water flow within this small canyon is intermittent.

The vegetation is dominated by dense clusters of juniper trees in the northeastern and southwestern portions. Other areas contain scattered clusters of juniper trees. The predominant understory plant species are big sage, rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, snakeweed, and annual forbs.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: A wooden pole powerline bisects this unit in an east-west direction. There are also 11 miles of ways, eight constructed reservoirs, and eight miles of fence. These intrusions, especially the utility powerline, ways, and the constructed reservoirs in the central portions of the unit, dominate the landscape. The imprint of man is substantially noticeable in the mid-portion, while the southwestern and northeastern portions generally remain in a natural condition.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit. There is ony a limited amount of topographic and vegetative screening, making it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The canyon in the southern portion also lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude because its short length (one and one-half miles) and confining topographic features restrict any attempts by visitors to avoid each other.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, nature study, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and wildlife observation. Opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because there are no significant or unique points of interest in the unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One suggests that there are excellent opportunities for solitude in the north canyon and good opportunities for fishing and wildlife observation. The other only states that the unit has enough opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation to be a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The quality of naturalness within this unit has been degraded by numerous developments. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding. The comment about the excellent opportunities for solitude, fishing, and wildlife observation in the north canyon does not pertain to this unit because the north canyon is not within the boundaries of this unit. One comment states that this unit has enough opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation to be a WSA. Further evaluation of the wilderness characteristics within this unit support the previous decision for the following reasons. A wooden pole utility powerline runs through the heart of this unit. In addition, several ways in the same area intrude upon the naturalness of this unit. The portions of the unit that remain after eliminating the areas that are substantially unnatural do not satisfy the criteria for wilderness study areas. They do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation for the reasons stated above in the "Solitude" and "Recreation" sections.

Unit Number: 5-42

Unit Name: Hampton Butte

Subunits: During the intensive inventory, a road was found in the northwestern portion forming a subunit containing 1,740 acres. This subunit does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-42A

Description

Size: 10,600 acres; 300 acres of private inholdings.

Location: One mile north of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of private property and a road. The eastern boundary is private property. The southern and western boundaries are a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains a series of foothills rising to a rugged Columbia River Basalt rim. This rim forms the edge of a relatively flat plateau approximately 600 acres in size. The buttes are part of the scenic Hampton Buttes. The northern half of this unit contains smaller plateaus, rolling hills, and a shallow canyon that extends in a northeast-southwest direction for two miles. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate the southern half of this unit and are also scattered along the steep-sloped hills and in several ravines. The dominant understory plant species include big sage, green rabbitbrush, low sage, and bitterbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria for a wilderness study area.

Naturalness: There are a number of developments in this unit. The majority of these improvements, however, are reverting back to a natural condition. There are three miles of ways, a one-mile water pipeline road and three miles of fence. The topography and vegetative screening is sufficient to reduce the visual impact of these improvements upon the landscape. The majority of this unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: After re-evaluating the attributes of this unit, we have some reservations as to whether the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most of the unit is between one and two miles wide. Private lands and a deadend road project into the unit, forming narrow corridors of public land. Visitors might have some problems in avoiding others. However, there was no public comment disagreeing with the assessment in the proposed decision that the area offered outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, hunting, and photography. There is some topographic diversity, and there are opportunities for challenge, and several points of interest to attract visitors to this unit. These recreational opportunities are not outstanding, due to the irregular shape, small size, roads and private inholdings within this unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,480-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Exclude 120 acres in narrow projections from the subunit. Exclude 1,740 acres in Subunit B because it does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Summary of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One of the opposing comments objects to private lands within a proposed WSA, and the other suggests that the unit lacks naturalness because of substantially noticeable ways and prospector's excavations. It also provides study phase information about possible mineral resources. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 10,600-acre wilderness study area in Subunit A. Exclude 1,740 acres in Subunit B from further review because it does not meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Rationale: This unit was re-evaluated because of the public comment stating the area is not in a natural condition because of substantially noticeable ways and prospectors' excavations. After reconsidering the unit, we continue to believe the few evidences of man's work are not substantially noticeable. However, during our re-evaluation, we looked again at the extent to which visitors would be able to find solitude. As explained above, we have reservations about whether the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, we believe this should be explored further during the study phase.

Unit Number: 5-43

Unit Name: Cougar Well

Description

Size: 17,315 acres of public land. There are 1,040 acres of private inholdings and 1,120 acres of state inholdings. The state inholdings now are in the process of being exchanged with BLM.

Location: Four miles northeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western boundary is BLM road. The southern boundary is a combination of a BLM water pipeline maintenance road and a power company maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The northern boundary is a combination of a BLM road and private property. Two deadend roads extend into the unit. One extends three miles from the eastern boundary to Cougar Well, and the second extends two miles eastward from the southwest boundary along a water pipeline.

Physical Characteristics: There are several different topographic features in this unit. The eastern half contains a large area with little local relief that slopes gradually up to the west. There is also a small canyon extending in a north-south direction bisecting this area. At the west edge of this gradually sloping area, low rolling foothills join a large butte west of Cougar Well. This butte forms a portion of the Hampton Buttes. The eastern flank of this butte rises sharply to the west. Once at the crest of this butte the western flank drops sharply to the west, forming a small secluded valley. Big sage, green rabbitbrush, low sage, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue are the dominant understory plant species. Dense stands of juniper trees grow on the rolling hills and scattered trees grow on the large butte west of Cougar Well.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are 18 miles of ways, one mile of water pipeline ways, six miles of fence, and three constructed cattle ponds. The cumulative effect of these developments is not particularly intrusive because many of them are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition. The topography and vegetative screening of this unit are also sufficient to reduce the visual impact of the developments. The unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The proposed decision was based in part on a belief that the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. When the unit was reassessed after the close of the public comment period, some question arose as to whether the opportunities are outstanding. The topography and vegetation would provide opportunities for solitude in portions of the unit, but the State and private inliers and the deadend roads would limit to some extent the areas of public land within which users could avoid other visitors. However, there was no public comment disagreeing with the assessment in the proposed decision.

Recreation: Hiking, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and nature study can all be enjoyed within this unit. There is some diversity of terrain, and vegetation, and there are several scenic vistas from the butte west of Cougar Well. The physical attributes of this unit attract visitors to the unit at the present time. However, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because the terrain, vegetation, and wildlife are not markedly different from that elsewhere in the region.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 17,026-acre wilderness study area. Exclude 289 acres which lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation and nine acres which are not natural.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirteen comments were received. Nine concur with the proposed decision and two are opposed to it. One comment expresses concern about a stock watering pond, but does not refer to the proposed decision. One of the opposing comments objects to private lands within a proposed WSA and suggests that Cougar Well and the water pipeline are substantially noticeable detractions from naturalness. The other suggests that the unit lacks naturalness because of substantially noticeable ways and prospector's excavations. It also provides study phase information about possible mineral resources. One comment agrees with the proposed decision to eliminate portions of the unit from further wilderness review, but does not mention the WSA proposal.

Final Decision: Designate a 17,315-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: We continue to believe the area is essentially natural. The ways, pipeline, and stock watering ponds mentioned in the comments are not substantially noticeable. In re-evaluating the unit, we looked again at the extent to which visitors would be able to find solitude. As explained above, we have reservations about whether the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, we believe this should be explored further during the study phase.

Unit Number: 5-46

Unit Name: Hampton

Description

Size: 8,650 acres.

Location: Five miles east of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a power company maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a county road. The western and southern boundaries are BLM water pipeline roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is divided into two portions by a ridge of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt extending in a north-south direction for approximately four miles. The area to the east of this ridge contains low rolling hills and a desert plain gradually sloping downward to the east. The vegetation in this area is dominated by big sage, with green rabbitbrush, snakeweed, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and occassionally a juniper tree. The vegetation in the western portion of this unit is very similar, but also includes bitterbrush and elymas. The topography within this area contains low rolling hills sloping downward into the unit, forming a shallow valley. There are also a few small Columbia River Basalt escarpments located in the northwestern portion of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several areas contain substantially noticeable developments. There is a constructed cattle pond in the southeastern portion and a constructed reservoir in the northwestern portion. Some of the brush in the southern portion was sprayed, but the project area looks natural to a visitor unfamiliar with range management practices. There are six miles of ways, two miles of fence, and a wildlife guzzler located within the boundaries of this unit. The cumulative effect of these developments is not sufficient to degrade the generally natural condition of the majority of the unit.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. The size of the unit, the overall lack of topographic relief and the lack of vegetative screening make it highly unlikely that a visitor to this area could avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Sightseeing, rock collecting, photography, and hiking opportunities are available within this unit. None of these recreational activities however, could be experienced in an outstanding manner, because this unit contains limited diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife. There are no unique points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation because of its size and the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening. No new or additional information has been found that would result in a change in the proposed decision.

Unit Number: 5-47

Unit Name: Stockpile

Description

Size: 8,300 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre State inholding within the unit.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western and eastern boundaries are county roads. The northern boundary is a power company maintenance road. The southern boundary is State Highway 20.

Physical Characteristics: The topography in the western portion includes low rolling hills that slope downward to the east. The central portion contains a dry river bed extending in a northwest-southeast direction. Reddish brown outcroppings of Columbia River Basalt border parts of this dry river. The east portion also contains a dry river bed extending in an east-west direction and joining the river bed in the central portion. The dominant vegetation is by big sagebrush; other plants include rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and several juniper trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Two portions of this unit have been altered by man and no longer remain in a natural condition. A crested wheat field in the extreme northwestern portion contains 49 acres. Another area in the mid-southern portion contains a State highway material site (one acre). The material site and the crested wheat field are unnatural in appearance and contrast with their surrounding environments. There are also five miles of ways and three miles of fence in this unit. These developments do not dominate the landscape. The majority of this unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist within this unit. The relatively small size of this unit and the overall lack of topographic and vegetative screening do not provide opportunities for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Opportunities exist for hunting, hiking, and rock collecting. None of these activities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there is no diverstiy in topography, vegetation, or wildlife. The physical characteristics of this unit would not attract visitors.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness reveiw.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not available. There is no additional information regarding the wilderness characteristics of this unit that suggests that the decision be changed.

Unit Number: 5-49

Unit Name: Hemstad

Description

Size: 15,553 acres.

Location: Eight miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: Portions of the western and eastern boundaries are formed by county and BLM roads. The remaining boundaries are private property or national forest land.

Physical Characteristics: The northern half is a desert plain with low rolling hills and an occasional basalt outcropping. The topography in the southern half is also relatively flat but contains higher rolling hills and more distinctive basalt outcroppings. The vegetation is dominated by big sage and green rabbitbrush, but bitterbrush, current, low sage, and isolated juniper trees are also found. Dense stands of ponderosa pine occupy the extreme mid-western portions.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several major portions of this unit have been altered by man. 500 acres in the northern portion burned at one time. This burned area has been reseeded and looks very unnatural. 235 acres in the mid-western portion contain a network of ways, a well and related facilities, a bulldozed water pond, three miles of fence, and a wildlife guzzler. The cumulative effect of these developments is dominant and degrading. The overall character of the landscape no longer generally appears affected primarily by the forces of nature; the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit because of the overall lack of either topographic or vegetative screening.

Recreation: There are opportunities to experience camping, hiking, and photography. However, none of these primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there are no distinguishing points of interest within this unit. There is a limited amount of topographic, vegetative, and wildlife diversity, and no features within this unit that would attract a person to visit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This area no longer remains in a natural condition, and does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. There is no additional information regarding this unit's wilderness characteristics that suggests that the decision be changed.

Unit Number: 5-50

Unit Name: Whiskey Springs

Description

Size: 6,792 acres.

Location: Approximately seven miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: All of the western, and part of the southern boundaries are a power company maintenance road. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This triangular shaped area containes very little topographic relief. The northeastern portion does contain a low plateau that rises about 20 to 30 feet. The central and eastern portions contain small rolling hills and small plateaus that gradually slope in all directions. The vegetation is dominated by big and low sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, Stipa, squirreltail, buckwheat, and bitterbrush. Four juniper trees and one apparently dead pine tree were found in the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of this unit where the primeval character of the landscape has been altered by developments. Seven miles of ways extend across the unit. The unit also contains seven miles of fence, a developed spring (Whiskey Spring), and a bulldozed cattle watering pond. The ways and fences dominate the landscape due to the lack of topographic relief and no vegetative screening. The light color of the soil also highlights contrasts between the altered and natural portions of the landscape. For these reasons this unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available because of the lack of topographic relief, no vegetative screening, and the small size of this unit.

Recreation: Camping, photography, and nature study could all be experienced within this unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not available because there is very little diversity of terrain within this unit. There are no points of interest to attract visitors to this area.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Most of the unit is not natural and it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation. There is no additional information suggesting a change in this decision.

Unit Number: 5-51

Unit Name: Twin Pines

Description

Size: 12,600 acres of public land. There are 480 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Two miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is private property. The western, southern, and eastern boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The shape of this unit is irregular because of the private inholdings. The western portion (Skull Hill) contains Pine Ridge, made up of several rolling hills and one large one sloping upward to the south. East of Pine Ridge, the topography is relatively flat, then rises sharply to the north to a plateau. Vegetation includes an isolated colony of juniper trees along the southern flank of Pine Ridge, big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, and other plant species. The southeastern portion of the unit contains an isolated stand of about 70 ponderosa pine trees located north of a basalt plateau that rises and parallels the southern boundary road. The northeastern portion contains Settlemeyer Ridge, which rises about 150 feet and runs in a east-west direction. Isolated clusters of Columbia River Basalt can be found along this ridge. The vegetation is the same as described in the western portion except there are very few juniper trees in this portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Many portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. Two fire rehabilitative seedings are contained within this unit. These areas are still evident and dominate the landscape for a short distance. There are 19 miles of ways, nine miles of fence, two miles of road, and five contructed cattle watering ponds. The cumulative effect of these developments is such that the works of man are substantially noticeable throughout this unit.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit. The lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The shape of this unit, private inholdings, and numerous developments all limit the opportunities for experiencing solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, and photography. None of these opportunities are outstanding because there is also a limited amount of diversity of topography, vegetation, wildlife, and there are no unique features within this unit that would attract a visitor.

Supplemental Values: The isolated colony of pine trees in the southeastern portion of this unit is a supplemental value. This relatively small stand of pine trees represents a remnant of a forest that once extended from the forested hills west of this unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains many portions where works of man dominate the landscape. It does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation because of the lack of topographic and vegetative screening. No new or additional information has been found that disagreed with the information obtained during the wilderness intensive inventory.

Unit Number: 5-52

Unit Name: Dickerson Well

Subunits: The unit contains 9,040 acres of public land. During the intensive inventory a road was found in the northwestern corner. The road creates two subunits, one of which has only 170 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-52A

Description

Size: 8,870 acres.

Location: 10 miles southwest of Brothers.

Boundaries: The eastern boundary is a power company maintenance road and private property. The northern, western, and southern boundaries are BLM or county roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is relatively flat. The northern and mid-portions contain flat plains, and occasionally low rolling hills. The southern portion includes a small hill that rises approximately 375 feet above the low rolling hills and desert plains. The vegetation in most of this unit is dominated by big and low sage, with green rabbitbrush, bunchgrasses, and occasional small clusters of juniper trees. A small stand of juniper trees dominates the landscape in the southeastern portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There were two main areas where the works of man dominate the landscape. A bulldozed cattle pond is located in the northeastern portion, and two bulldozed cattle ponds are located in the southeastern portion. Their influence upon the surrounding environment is generally limited to a one-fourth mile radius. There are also nine miles of ways and one mile of fence in the unit. The other parts of this unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening would make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people. The size of this unit further restricts oportunities for solitude.

Recreation: There are opportunities for camping, hiking, and photography. None of these primitive and unconfined recreational activities, could be experienced in an outstanding manner because there are no distinguishing points of interest within this unit. There is little diversity of topography, vegetation, or wildlife, and there are no features within this unit that would attract a person to visit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further Wilderness review.

Rationale: The area is generally natural. However, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. No new or additional information has been found that disagreed with the information obtained during the wilderness intensive inventory of this unit.

Unit Number: 5-53

Unit Name: Two Post Lake

Description

Size: 11,545 acres.

Location: Seven miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: All boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: This unit contains some topographic and vegetative diversity within its boundaries. The most prominent topographic feature is a narrow ridge located in the middle of the unit, containing irregular and blocky outcroppings of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt. This ridge rises from 20 to 170 feet above the low, rolling hills surrounding the ridge. There are also several small rolling hills in the mid-northern portion. A large area with little local relief slopes from the ridge downward to the north. The topography in the south portion also consists of a large, gradually sloped area extending south from the low basaltic ridge in the middle of this unit. There is very little topographic relief in this portion of the unit. The vegetation is dominated by big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, several bunchgrass species, a few juniper trees, and other plant species. There is also a small colony of pine trees in the northwestern portion that extends west into unit 5-51. This small stand of about 20 trees was once part of a forest that extended from the western mountain flanks of the present Deschutes National Forest, eastward into the high desert.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of this unit that have been altered by man and his works. The northwestern portion contains a 50-acre area of crested wheatgrass and other bunch grass species. The area is presently dominated by green rabbitbrush. This area sharply contrasts with the surrounding vegetation and is very unnatural in its appearance. There are also 28 miles of ways, six miles of fence, and four bulldozed cattle watering ponds. None of these human developments individually dominate the landscape for any great distance. However, the cumulative effect of all these developments is that the area does not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: This unit does not offer otstanding opportunities for solitude because the lack of sufficient topographic relief and vegetative screening means that a visitor cannot avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature and botanical study. None of these primitive and unconfined types of recreation could be experienced in an outstanding manner. The physical attributes of this unit would not attract visitors to this area; there are no points of interest (except the pine trees in the northwest portion); and there is very little diversity of topography.

Supplemental Values: The isolated colony of pine trees located in the southeastern portion of this unit is a supplemental value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: This unit contains many portions where man and his works dominate the landscape. This unit also lacks sufficient topographic and vegetative screening to offer either outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. No new or additional information has been found that disagreed with the information obtained during the wilderness intensive inventory of this unit.

Unit Number: 5-55

Unit Name: Lone Pine

Description

Size: 17,175 acres of public land. There are 800 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately four miles southeast of Brothers.

Boundaries: The southern boundary is a BLM road. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property. The northern and western boundaries are a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topography in the western and central portions of this unit is dominated by a variety of small reddish brown Columbia River Basalt escarpments surrounded by low rolling hills and small basins. A small basalt plateau extends west from the northeastern portion of this unit and contains a small stand of juniper trees. The topography in the southern half of this unit is relatively flat with very little topographic relief. The vegetation in the very southern and southeastern portions is dominated by old stands of juniper trees. The understory plant species include big and low sage, green rabbitbrush, and Idaho fescue. The northern half is dominated by big sage, green rabbitbrush and western needlegrass. Isolated clusters of juniper trees are located in the extreme northern and the mid-eastern poritons of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by human activities. 280 acres in the extreme northeastern portion of this unit were sprayed at one time. Forty acres still appear to be unnatural in appearance. 173 acres in this same area appear natural because of a one and one-half mile long stockwater pipeline. Two bulldozed cattle ponds and a way dominate the landscape in the extreme mid-southern portion of the unit. Twenty-nine miles of ways were also found within this unit. None of these ways dominated the landscape because the low, rolling hills and sagebrush screen them from view except when directly in line with them. Many of these ways are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition. Ten miles of fence and a wildlife guzzler are also located. The cumulative effect of these manmade improvements upon the overall primeval character of the landscape is minimal, and much of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available in this unit. There is a lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening that would enable a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people within the unit. In addition, the 800 acres of private land within this unit could tend to confine visitors attempting to avoid one another.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational opporatunities is outstanding because there is a limited amount of diversity in the topography, vegetation and wildlife of this unit. There is no feature that is significant enough to attract visitors to this unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is generally natural in its appearance, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation. No new or additional information has been found that disagreed with the information obtained during the wilderness intensive inventory of this unit.

Unit Number: 5-56

Unit Name: Fredrick Butte

Description

Size: 8,380 acres of public land. There are 320 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 11 miles south of Brothers.

Boundaries: The northern, southern, and western boundaries are a combination of BLM roads and private property. The eastern boundary is a combination of a county road and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is dominated by several steep-sloped hills and buttes that extend in an east-west direction. Fredrick Butte rises several hundred feet above the surrounding terrain, and contains dark brown and grey Columbia River Basalt. The topography changes rapidly just west of Fredrick Butte. A large desert plain is located southwest of Fredrick Butte. Directly west of Fredrick Butte, a small valley and then several steeply sloped hills extend to the west. Solder Cap Butte is the furthest west. A large enclosed valley is located just east of Solder Cap Butte. The majority of this valley is privately owned.

A variety of vegetation is found on Fredrick Butte, the surrounding hills, and in the valley. It is dominated by dense stands of large, old juniper trees. The northern facing slope also contains clusters of mountain mahogany. Clusters of juniper trees grow in the hills west of Fredrick Butte, generally on the southern facing slopes. In the higher elevations, lupine, yarrow, snowberry, bitterbrush, and currant grow. The dominant understory plant species include big sage, low sage, green rabbitbrush, and Idaho fescue. North of Solder Cap Butte, the topography is low rolling hills generally sloping in a north-south direction. Stands of old juniper trees dominate the vegetation of this area.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions within this unit have been altered by man, but most of these developments do not dominate the landscape. There are 12 miles of ways, four bulldozed cattle ponds, a road leading to private property and a small fenced area (40' x 40') in the extreme southeastern portion. There are also a small number of cut juniper trees in the eastern half of this unit. These developments do not seriously degrade the landscape and it appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening. In addition the topography tends to concentrate visitors to an area west of Fredrick Butte where the vegetation does not offer the screening necessary for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors. Likewise, the low rolling hills north of Solder Cap Butte are confining in size and shape and prevent visitors from avoiding each other in this area. The private property found within this unit may also tend to confine visitors to one area.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational activities opportunities is outstanding because there is a limited amount of diversity in the topography, vegetation, and wildlife, and there doesn't appear to be any unique feature that is significant enough to attract visitors.

Supplemental Values: The old stand of juniper trees on Fredrick Butte could be important to study at some time.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening in combination with a private inholding precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation within this unit. No new or additional information has been found that suggests that the decision be changed.

Unit Number: 5-59

Unit Name: Grassy Lake

Description

Size: 24,337 acres of public land. There are 40 acres of private inholdings.

Location: Approximately eight miles southeast of Brothers.

Boundaries: The western boundary is a combination of county and BLM roads. The remaining boundaries are BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is relatively flat, sloping gradually to the south, north, and to the east. The predominant vegetation in the northern and central portions is the stands of juniper trees, which are scattered in fairly uniform numbers in these regions. The topography is very flat in the extreme southeastern portion of this unit, south of Hayes Spring. There, the juniper trees are more isolated and gradually give way to low and big sage, which are the predominant understory plant species. Big sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and other associated plant species dominate the understory plant species in the northern and central portions. The vegetation on the 700-acre dry lakebed in the southeastern portion of this unit is dominated by silver sage. A variety of reddish brown Columbia River Basalt formations add to the scenic beauty of this landscape. Ram Lake is a large lake that often contains water and is partly surrounded by a small basaltic wall. Several other smaller dry lakebeds are located in the unit. A large lakebed is located in the southern portion.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions have been altered by the works of man. There are 25 miles of ways that are in the process of reverting back to a natural condition. This includes a way that extends in an east-west direction along the Deschutes and Lake County line that is listed as a public access road under revised statute 2477. Although constructed at one point in time, this way has not been maintained and does not appear to be relatively regularly used. There are eight bulldozed cattle ponds. All but two cattle ponds blend into their surrounding environment. There are also fifteen miles of fence within this unit. A north-south utility powerline cuts across the center of the unit.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit, because the lack of topographic relief, the shape of this unit, and the lack of vegetative screening make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and other types of primitive and unconfined recreation available within this unit. None of these oportunities are outstanding because there is no significant point of interest to attract visitors, and there is only a limited amount diversity of vegetation and topography.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although this unit is basically natural, the topographic and vegetative characteristics, combined with the size and shape of this unit, preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. No new or additional information has been found that disagreed with the information obtained during the wilderness intensive inventory of this unit.

Unit Number: 5-63

Unit Name: Stud Horse Butte

Description

Size: 16,504 acres.

Location: Eight miles south of Hampton.

Boundaries: The western boundary is formed by a BLM road. All other boundaries are formed by a combination of private property and BLM roads.

Physical Characteristics: Several different topographic features characterize this area. The eastern portion contains relatively flat land, low rolling hills, small basins, valleys, and shallow sloping bajadas. The central portion contains Stud Horse Butte, the most predominant landmark found in this unit. It rises 200 to 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. Low rolling hills, small desert basins, and small walls of Columbia River Basalt are also found in this portion. In the western portion, there are higher rolling hills and larger basins. Juniper trees are more appaarent in the western and central portions. Big sage is the dominant understory plant and it occurs along with green rabbitbrush, lupine, Sandberg's bluegrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: There are several portions of the landscape within this unit that have been altered by the works of man. A 25-foot water tank is located just south of Parmele Well, and there are several wooden fences and a pump house just south of Browns Well. A road extends around a bulldozed cattle watering pond. These developments are all substantially noticeable. In addition there are four bulldozed cattle watering ponds, ten miles of ways, seven miles of fence, one mile of buried water pipeline, and three small metal watertanks. The cumulative effect of these human works upon the overall naturalness of this unit is minimal. Most of these ways, water pipelines ways, and ponds are rapidly reverting back to a natural condition through the forces of nature. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because the extremely irregular shape, combined with very little topographic and vegetative screening, make it difficult for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors.

Recreation: Several types of primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities are available within this unit, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. None of these recreational activities, however, can be experienced in an outstanding manner because there is a limited amount of diversity in topography, vegetation, and wildlife and there doesn't appear to be any feature that is significant enough to attract visitors to this unit.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed action.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Even though this unit is basically natural, its shape, size, and other attributes do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. No new or additional information was obtained that warranted changing the decision.

Unit Number: 5-64

Unit Name: Glass Butte

Description

Size: 10,911 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of private inholdings and 640 acres of state inholdings.

Location: Ten miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: The northern boundary is a combination of private property and U.S. Highway 20. The remaining boundaries are formed by a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The dominant topographic feature of this unit is a pyramid-shaped land mark named Glass Butte. This butte rises to an elevation of 6385 feet, and is surrounded by several different topographic features. The northwestern and eastern portions of this unit contain several side canyons extending from Glass Butte that form steep-sloped valleys and low rolling hills containing clusters of juniper trees, mountain mahogany, willows, big sage, green rabbitbrush, and other plant species. Massive reddish brown and grey basaltic outcroppings and boulders are irregularly scattered on these slopes. A series of lower rolling hills lie below the western and southern slopes of Glass Butte. These rolling hills contain stands of juniper trees. The southern portions also contains several small canyons extending in a north-south direction. The dominant plant species in this portion of the unit are juniper trees, big sage, green rabbitbrush, Idaho fescue, and bluebunch wheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Several portions of this unit have been altered by the works of man. A road extends west from the eastern portion of this unit to the crest of Glass Butte. A microwave relay tower and concrete building are located on this point. A wooden pole powerline extends west from the eastern boundary road relatively close to the microwave concrete building. The developments listed above have an essentially unnatural appearance that contrasts with the surrounding landscapes. There are also 17 miles of ways, 12 miles of fence, six reservoirs, and two cattle watering troughs. None of these features dominate a large portion of the landscape. Although the topographic and vegetative screening capabilities of this unit are limited, they help to reduce the cumulative effects of the human works the natural landscape within this unit. Most of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available within this unit because its irregular shape and the private and state inholdings confine a visitor to small areas where it would not be possible to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and nature study. None of these recreational opportunities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because activities would be greatly restricted by the private and state inholdings.

Supplemental Values: Obsidian (a dark colored natural glass formed by the cooling of molten lava) can be found in most portions of this unit. Many years ago, Indians traveled for miles to gather this obsidian to make arrowheads and other tools. Today, this area is well known to rock collectors living in the western United States.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and three suggest that the unit should be a WSA. One of them suggests that the rugged valleys and scattered trees offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. It also refers to the obsidian outcroppings as an outstanding geological feature. Another suggests that the many hills surrounding Glass Butte would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the majority of this unit remains in a natural condition, the extensive private and state inholdings, combined with sparse topographic and vegetative screening, form a unit that provides only limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Three comments suggest that this wilderness inventory unit should be a WSA, because the rugged valleys, many hills and scattered trees offering outstanding opportunities for solitude. Re-evaluation of these attributes and their ability to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude affirms the decision that outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist within this unit. Small areas within the southern and northeastern portions of this unit do contain limited amounts of topographic relief and scattered clusters of juniper trees and mountain mahogany. The majority of the public lands within this unit, however, contain open and exposed slopes that would prohibit visitors from avoiding the sights, sound and evidence of each other. The private and state inholdings within this area would further confine and restrict visitors to small localities with limited amounts of topographic and vegetative screening that do not provide an environment where outstanding wilderness opportunities could be experienced. The obsidian outcroppings were recognized during the intensive inventory as a supplemental value. However, supplemental values can only enhance the wilderness character of an area that satisfies the other criteria.

Unit Number: 5-65

Unit Name: Round Mountain

Subunits: The unit contains a total of 20,080 acres. The unit is divided by a road into two subunits, one of which contains 4,015 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas and it is not described below.

Subunit Number: 5-65A

Description

Size: 16,065 acres.

Location: Approximately 13 miles southeast of Hampton.

Boundaries: Boundaries are formed by a combination of BLM roads and private property.

Physical Characteristics: The most distinguishing topographic feature within this subunit is Round Mountain. This steep-sloped mountain is located in the northwestern portion and includes a large variety of dark brown Columbia River Basalt formations, especially on the northern slopes. Several small foothills and ravines surround this mountain. Dense stands of juniper trees dominate the landscape, with an understory of big sage, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush (generally rare), bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and aspen (very rare). Except for a smaller mountain southeast of Round Mountain, the topography in the remaining portions of this unit consist of low rolling hills and relatively flat desert plains. Occasionally there is a small basalt butte. A dry river bed runs east-west in the mid portion of the unit. Big sage dominates the vegetative community, with green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush (occasionally), Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, a few dispersed clusters of juniper trees, and other plant species.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Developments have modified the landscape in several portions of this subunit. A wood pole powerline cuts across it in several places, and one area has a network of ways. These areas are not essentially natural. In addition, there are five constructed reservoirs, 13 miles of ways, two miles of road, ten miles of fence, and an old crested wheatgrass seeding in the very southern portion of this subunit. Several mining claims are also recorded with the BLM Prineville District. An old bulldozed fire break road and a change in the vegetative community indicate 40 acres along the northern boundary may have been burned at one time. The cumulative effect of these developments upon the overall character of the landscape is moderate. The size of this subunit, the topographic relief, and the vegetative screening reduce the magnitude and visual impact of the developments. Although the landscape has been degraded to a small degree, the majority of the subunit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available because the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening prevents a visitor from avoiding the sights and sounds of other people within the subunit.

Recreation: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, and photography. None of these opportunities could be experienced in an outstanding manner because the topography, vegetation, and wildlife are not diverse. The only unique points of interest are the scattered clusters of obsidian. Practically all of the obsidian locations contain ways.

Supplemental Values: The obsidian (a dark colored natural glass that is formed by the cooling of molten lava) found within this unit is a supplemental value. Many years ago, Indians traveled for many miles to obtain obsidian for making tools and weapons. Today, this area is a well known and active area for rock collectors.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One comment suggests that the rugged valleys and scattered trees offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. It also refers to the obsidian outcroppings as an outstanding geological feature. Another suggests that the many hills surrounding Glass Butte would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Final Decision: Eliminate the entire unit from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The majority of this unit generally remains in a natural condition. The overall lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening means that opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation are not outstanding. Two comments stated that the rugged valleys, scattered trees and many hills contained within this unit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Re-evaluation of the wilderness attributes within this unit affirms the decision that outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist. The vast majority of this unit lacks sufficient topographic and vegetative screening to enable visitors to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors within the same area. Round Mountain does contain topography and pockets of vegetation that are conducive to experiencing solitude, but not to an outstanding degree. The geologic attributes of this unit were identified during the intensive inventory as supplemental values.

Island Numbers: 5-68, 69, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

Island Names: Steamboat, Eagle Butte, Kimberly, Service Creek, Key, Gull, Lion, Nomanisa, and Fantasy Islands.

Note: During the intensive inventory, Units 5-77, 5-78, 5-80, and 5-81 were found to be sandbars and not islands. They are no longer wilderness island inventory units and are not described below.

Description

Size: The islands vary from one-fourth to two and one-half acres.

Location: 5-68 and 5-69 are located in the Deschutes River; 5-76, 82 and 83 are located in the John Day River.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness, Solitude and Recreation: The islands generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and confined types of recreation are not available on any of these islands. It is not possible for a visitor to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other visitors on any of these islands due to the lack of topographic relief and adequate vegetative screening. None of these islands contain any points of interest or topographic diversity. Islands 5-68, 69, 82, and 83 do contain some diversity in vegetation and wildlife, but these qualities are not outstanding.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate Units 5-68, 69, 76, 77, 80, 81, 82, and 83 from further wilderness review.

Summary of Proposed Comments: One comment was received, concurring with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Eliminate these units from further wilderness review.

Rationale: None of these units have wilderness characteristics. Units 5-68, 69, 76, 82 and 83 do not offer outstainding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Units 5-77, 78, 80 and 81 are not islands and are not part of any units which meet the minimum size criteria. No information was obtained that resulted in changing the decision that these islands lacked outstanding wilderness characteristics.

BAKER DISTRICT

Unit Number: 6-1

Unit Name: McGraw Creek

Description

Size: 1,900 acres.

Location: Approximately 75 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered by Forest Service land on the north and northwest, the Hells Canyon Reservoir road to the east, and private land and the Hess Road to the south and southwest. The adjoining Forest Service land is part of RARE II area number 6292.

Physical Characteristics: The inventory unit contains portions of three perennial streams -- McGraw, Nelson and Copper Creeks. McGraw and Nelson Creek valleys have towering vertical rock outcroppings, and steep slopes covered with grass, poison ivy, and small shrubbery. The riparian zone contains a variety of deciduous trees, wild flowers, and shrubbery. The Copper Creek area has steeply-sloping valley sides which are covered with coniferous trees to the west and shrubbery to the east.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria because it adjoins Forest Service RARE II area number 6292 which contains 5,900 acres. This Forest Service unit was placed into a "further planning" category by the Department of Agriculture pending completion of the management plan for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Subsequently, the Forest Service announced in its draft management plan it preferred wilderness designation for Unit 6292 as its management alternative.

Naturalness: The eastern half of the inventory unit is essentially undisturbed by human works and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The Snake River reservoir and the Idaho Power Company road are outside of the unit, but are visible from many parts of it. In the western half of the unit, the south half of Section 34 contains tree stumps, logging skid trails, a landing and a 350 KV powerline. Even where it runs outside of the unit, the powerline is easily visible. The south, west, and northwest boundaries of Section 34 are a regularly-used road. A road cut running diagonally across the Idaho side of the Snake River Canyon is visible from high points in the western half of the unit. Approximately 290 acres in Section 34 have been heavily impacted by the works of man.

Solitude: The highly-dissected canyons and hillsides in the eastern half provide outstanding topographic screening. At the creek mouths, traffic on the Idaho Power Company road (an off-site intrusion across the Hells Canyon Reservoir) is slightly noticeable. This portion of the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in conjunction with the adjoining RARE II area.

Recreation: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, wildlife observation and photography particularly when one considers the proximity of the unit to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and RARE II area 6292. Big game and upland game bird hunting are also outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The riparian zones of the eastern half of the unit offer an educational opportunity to the wildlife and botanical enthusiast. The Barton berry (*Rubus bartonianys*), a threatened species on the Federal list, can be found within the unit. Also, found within the unit are Cusick's milkvetch (*Astragalus cusickii*), Snake River Canyon phlox (*Phlox colubrina*), and the Snake River milkvetch (*Astragalus vallaris*), all of which are under consideration by the State for inclusion on the Federal threatened list. Sparrows, yellow warblers, the American kestrel, western meadowlark, golden and bald eagles and various species of upland game can be observed in the area.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 1,610-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 290 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: Nineteen comments were received. Seventeen concur with the proposed decision. Two comments provide study phase information which is not pertinent to the inventory decision. One comment provides new information about the historical significance of a road.

Final Decision: Designate a 1,610-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 290 acres because they lack wilderness characteristics. If the Secretary of Agriculture decides to not recommend that RARE II area 6292 be designated wilderness, the decision to designate Unit 6-1 for wilderness study will be reversed because the BLM lands do not have wilderness characteristics when considered apart from the adjoining RARE II area.

Rationale: The road designation has not been changed. The logging road with its cuts, fills, berms, culverts and periodic maintenance qualifies as a road under the road definition contained in the BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook. The 290 acres eliminated from further wilderness review have been extensively logged. Evidence of man's activities is readily apparent. The 350 KV powerline is inescapable in this part of the unit.

The balance of the unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation when considered in conjunction with the adjoining RARE II area, and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Unit Number: 6-2

Unit Name: Homestead

Description

Size: 11,800 acres of public land. There are six privately owned inholdings totalling 520 acres. Forest Service RARE II unit number 6291 containing 6260 acres adjoins the southwestern edge of the unit. This unit has been placed in the "further planning" category by the Forest Service.

Location: Approximately 65 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the east by the Snake River Road and private land; on the north by private land, the Hess Road and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; on the west by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and a logging road; on the south by private land and Highway 86. The adjoining Forest Service land is part of RARE II area number 6291. The boundary is highly irregular on the north, east, and south sides, due to the configuration of the private lands and roads. The northern section of the unit forms a narrow crescent, in places no more than one-fourth mile in width.

Physical Characteristics: The topography is greatly dissected with several stream vallys and steep sloping ridges. Distinct lava outcroppings are centrally located within the unit. Pine, fir, aspen, and willow can be found on the northeast-facing slopes and along the riparian zones, with perennial grasses covering the remaining slopes. The forest understory includes Oregon grape, snowberry, and snowbrush. Deer and elk are abundant throughout most of the unit. Black bear, red-tailed hawk, and great horned owl have been observed in the forested and riparian zones.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The northern portion and part of the western side have been logged. Cherry-stem roads, skid trails, logging cuts, and fills are clearly evident. A 350 KV powerline runs on and off the unit along the Hess Road and along the Oregon side of the Snake River Road. Within the northern and western portions of the unit the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The crescent-shaped area in the north does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to its very irregular, narrow shape and lack of sufficient vegetative or topographic screening. Maintenance crews for the 350 KV powerline along the west edge of the unit would detract from opportunities for solitude in that area. The deeply cut, switch-backed road ascending the hill from Homestead to a section of the old Irondyke Mine, while out of the unit, is a major intrusion and is substantially noticeable from the area between the Homestead and Irondyke drainages. Throughout the remainder of the unit, south of Homestead, the off-site intrusions are inescapable. Activities associated with Copperfield, Oxbow Dam powerhouse, Idaho Power's campground and access road, and Highway 86 are substantially noticeable. Opportunities for escaping these intrusions are limited and of short duration. While solitude can be found, the opportunity is not considered outstanding.

Recreation: The steep topography offers a physical challenge to the hiker and backpacker. The lava outcroppings within the Homestead drainage provide scenic and geologic sightseeing opportunities. Deer and chukar hunting are outstanding throughout the majority of this unit. Excellent elk hunting is found at the higher elevations.

Supplemental Values: The Homestead Unit lies within the unique biological area of the Snake River Canyon. Plant communities are diverse, because of the wide variation in climatic and edaphic factors. These conditions provide unique habitats for a number of rare and unusual species. Numerous restricted endemic species are known from the Canyon area and the east flank of the adjacent Wallowa Mountains. They include two plants which are on the Federal candidate threatened list - swamp onion (*Allium madidum*) and Cusick's camas (*Camassia cusickii*). The latter is particularly significant, its entire known range limited to within a 20-mile radius of the Homestead Unit. The unit contains 16 state-listed plants, which may or may not be recommended for eventual national listing pending further research. There are probably other sensitive species in this area which have yet to be identified.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 10,700-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,100 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Eighteen comments were received. Fourteen concur with the proposed decision. One comment discusses supplemental values, but makes no clear reference to the proposed decision. One comment provides study phase information which is not pertinent to the inventory decision. Two comments oppose the proposed decision, one stating that there is enough wilderness already and the other identifying inescapable off-site intrusions on naturalness. Both provide study phase information about mineral resources.

Final Decision: Designate a 10,700-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,100 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The area possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The operating mine is on private land; examination of mineral potential within the WSA would be performed during the study phase. The 10,700 acres in the WSA have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Of the 1,100 acres dropped from further review, 600 have been logged with the effects still readily visible and 500 acres do not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The off-site intrusions affect only the solitude; the 10,700-acre WSA still possesses outstanding opportunities for recreation.

Unit Number: 6-3

Unit Name: Sheep Mountain

Description

Size: 8,200 acres of public land. There is a 120-acre private land inholding.

Location: 65 miles northeast of Baker.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered on the north by private land; on the east by private land and the Snake River Road; on the south by a reservoir and Road Canyon road; and on the west by private land.

Physical Characteristics: The northern portion of the unit is dissected by several creek drainages, a canyon, and extremely steep sloping ridges. The elevation rises sharply from approximately 1780 feet at the Snake River road to 4940 feet. The steep ridges are composed of basalt rock outcroppings, many with vertical cliffs. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are common at the higher elevations with patches of snowberry, bitter cherry, ninebark and wild rose included in the understory. The topography in the southern portion of the unit is characterized by steep ridges and rolling hills covered with annual grasses. This southern portion has been heavily grazed and the vegetation is essentially non-native.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears primarily natural in the northern portion except for the following two developments. A small cabin is located in T.7 S., R. 48 E., Section 32, and is substantially unnoticeable because it is almost completely shielded by topography and vegetation. A Forest Service repeater station occupies the S. W. corner of Section 31. While it can be seen, it occupies only a very small space and does not substantially detract from the naturalness of the area. In the southern portion a 350 KV powerline is substantially noticeable. It is located on ridge tops where its large wooden dual poles, insulators and lines can be readily seen. A road associated with the powerline can easily be seen due to its cuts and fills. These intrusions are not screened. The imprint of man is substantially noticeable on approximately 1,850 acres in the southern portion of the unit.

Solitude: The northern portion, with its deeply dissected drainages, thick vegetative cover in riparian zones, and scattered brush patches at higher elevations, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. From the ridgetop in the north, Highway 86 and its traffic is substantially noticeable. In the southern portion, the sights and sounds of the Brownlee

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dam, powerhouse, campground, and road are substantially noticeable from the ridgetop which extends north to south. The sight and sound of traffic on the 350 KV powerline boundary is evident from the boundary road to all high points in T. 8 S., R. 47 E., Sections 13, 24, 25, and 26; although very steep, the terrain does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude due mainly to the inadequate topographic and total lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: The steep topography in the northern portion offers a physical challenge to the backpacker and day-hiker. Equestrian enthusiasts could use the already-established trails although access into the unit is limited. Chukar hunting is excellent throughout the entire unit; big-game hunting is outstanding in the northern portion.

Supplemental Values: The higher elevations of this unit contain several plant species of interest to the scientific community. Thyme-leaved buckwheat (Eriogonum thymoides), Swamp onion (Allium madidum), and Cusick's camas (Camassia cusickii), all candidate threatened species have been recorded within the unit. On the east flank of the unit, five and possibly a sixth state-listed rare plants exist, some of which are considered regional endemics of the Snake River Canyon.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 6,350 acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,850 acres from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Eighteen comments were received. Sixteen concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. Both suggest that the unit lacks naturalness, because of the powerline and noise from traffic on Highway 86. One comment provides study phase information about mineral resources.

Final Decision: Designate a 6,350-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 1,850 acres from further review.

Rationale: The 6,350-acre WSA is generally free of the works of man and has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation exist. While off-site sights and sounds do affect several portions of the WSA, the opportunity for solitude still exists thoughout most of the rest of the 6,350 acres. An outstanding opportunity for solitude or recreation does not exist on the 1,100-acre southern portion dropped from further consideration. There is insufficient topographic and vegetative screening and this portion is too narrow for users to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. A 350 KV powerline, cuts and fills from abandoned roads and a constructed livestock trail also compromise this portion's naturalness. A detailed mineral inventory will be perfomed during the study phase.

Unit Number: 6-10

Unit Name: Cache Creek Ranch

Description

Size: The unit is made up of six parcels comprising 2,935 acres -- 1,960 acres in Oregon, and 975 acres in Washington; 1,350 acres lie within a Congressionally-mandated wilderness study area in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The Forest Service's draft management plan, Alternative C, recommends this study area for designation as wilderness.

Location: Approximately 60 miles northeast of Enterprise.

Boundaries: The unit is bordered on the north by private land and the Chief Joseph Wildlife Management Area managed by the Washington Game Department; on the east by the Snake River, private land, and the Congressionally mandated wilderness study area within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; on the south by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; and on the west by private land.

Physical Characteristics: Elevations range from 900 to 4900 feet - a rise of 4000 feet within two and one half miles. The area is extremely steep with vertical rock outcroppings and deeply dissected drainages. Vegetation consists of blue bunchgrass, Idaho fescue, scattered coniferous trees and riparian vegetation in the drainages.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The several parcels of this unit meet the minimum size criteria because they adjoin the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area wilderness study unit.

Naturalness: The unit appears natural over most of its area. It is characterized by deeply dissected topography with weathered rock spires, steep grass-covered ridgetops and slopes with scattered coniferous and deciduous trees. A small cabin, corral and an off-site road are not substantially noticeable throughout the unit because they occur in a steep drainage and are screened from view. The northern portion contains two fencelines, both of which are minor intrusions. The southern portion contains a fence along its western boundary. This fence is composed of weathered wood and is a minor intrusion.

Solitude: Jenny's Cabin and corral, historic remnants of early settlement, may attract visitors and limit opportunities for solitude. The unit is extremely dissected by deep canyons, has towering rock spires, and jutting horizontal lava outcroppings, and thus provides excellent topographic screening. There is limited vegetative screening throughout most of the unit with the exception of the southernmost portions which are forested with coniferous trees.

Recreation: Outstanding recreation opportunities prevail throughout the unit. Several existing trails provide access for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting. The rugged terrain and steep topography offer outstanding sightseeing and photographic opportunities. The deeply cut ravines and rock spires are challenges for rock climbing. The vertical spires and horizontal lava outcroppings offer outstanding views to the hiker and backpacker. Elk and deer hunting are unparalleled, with excellent herd numbers and shooting opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The small line cabin at Jenny's Corral is of historic value. The old horse corral immediately above the cabin is in a state of disrepair, but is evident. Three rare plants have high botanical interest: Gooseberry leaved alum root (Heuchera grossularii folia), Glandular penstemon (Penstemon glandulosus), and Sheldon milkvetch (Astragalus sheldonii).

Proposed Decision: Designate a 2,935-acre wilderness study area, consisting of six separate parcels.

Summary of Public Comments: Twelve comments were received and they all concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Designate a 2,935-acre wilderness study area. Almost half of the unit is in a Congressionally mandated study area. Most of the mandated study area is National Forest land. If Congress decides not to designate the portion of Unit 6-10 in the mandated study area as wilderness, the remainder of Unit 6-10 will be eliminated from further wilderness review. The remaining BLM lands would not have wilderness characteristics when considered apart from the BLM and National Forest lands in the mandated study area.

Rationale: This unit is comprised of six parcels which are all essentially in a natural condition. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation exist when the unit is considered in conjunction with the adjoining Forest Service study area. Although it is small, much of it is contained within a congressionally-mandated wilderness study area within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; this Forest Service WSA was recommended for wilderness designation in the Forest Service's draft management plan.

Unit Number: 6-11

Unit Name: Teepee Ridge

Description

Size: 240 acres. It borders the Forest Service's RARE II unit 6300 (Wildhorse) which is 20,800 acres in size. During the initial inventory of the BLM land, the RARE II unit was in the "further planning" category; therefore the small BLM parcel was recommended for intensive inventory. Since that time the Forest Service has recommended that unit 6300 be excluded from further wilderness consideration.

Location: Approximately 50 miles northeast of Enterprise.

Boundaries: It is bordered on the west, north and east by private land, and on the south by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Physical Characteristics: This unit is very steep, rising from 3000 elevation to 4050 feet elevation. With the exception of approximately ten timbered acres, the vegetation is basically brush and grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit fails to meet any of the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears natural. There are no evident works of man.

Solitude: Due to the unit's very small size an outstanding opportunity for solitude cannot be found.

Recreation: Some big-game hunting can occur on the tract; however, the opportunity is not considered to be outstanding because of its very small size.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values were found.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Four comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One suggests that BLM do an independent review of the adjacent Forest Service RARE II area along with the BLM lands. The other urges that the BLM land be a WSA so that it can be considered along with the Forest Service plan for the adjoining area. The latter comment suggests that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered in combination with the National Recreation Area, and that it offers supplemental values as range for big game animals.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit adjoins a large Forest Service RARE II unit (#6300-Wildhorse) that has been placed into a multiple-use-for-other-than-wilderness category. The Teepee Ridge unit fails to meet any of the minimum size criteria when considered by itself.

Unit Numbers: 6-13, 14, 15, 38, and 39

Unit Name: Islands

Description

Size: These five units are all very small islands. Their approximate sizes are: 6-13, 5 acres; 6-14, 4 acres; 6-15, 6 acres; 6-38, 4 acres; and 6-39, 2 acres.

Location: These islands are located in two sections of the Grande Ronde River. Units 13, 14, and 15 are in a two and a half mile stretch of the river approximately 15 miles upstream from Troy, Oregon. Though located in Washington units 38 and 39 are administered by the Baker District. They are 7 miles downstream from Washington Highway 129.

Boundaries: Boundaries are all formed by the Grande Ronde River.

Physical Characteristics: The islands are flat with heavy gravel accumulations on the upstream sides. Unit 13 has some ponderosa pine; the others contain only brush, willows, and other riparian vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The islands appear natural. A few fire rings are found on 6-13.

Solitude: There is little vegetation and almost no topographic screening on any of the islands. Their very small sizes precludes the opportunity to escape the presence of other persons if they were on the islands. The surrounding acreage (Unit 6-12 with 2120 acres) clearly and obviously lacked wilderness characteristics and has been eliminated from further wilderness review.

Recreation: The islands provide some very limited camping and picnicking opportunities. Due to their very small sizes one would not seek these places out among others to pursue this activity.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate all five islands from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning any of these island inventory units.

Final Decision: Eliminate the five islands from further wilderness review.

Rationale: These units are very small. Although they are natural, outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation do not exist.

Unit Number: 6-40

Unit Name: Hooker Gulch

Description

Size: 6,100 acres.

Location: Approximately 20 miles southeast of Baker in the Burnt River Canyon.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the south by the Burnt River road and some private land holdings, and on the remaining sides by BLM and County roads and private land. The boundary is highly irregular due to the configuration of the private lands, roads, and the Burnt River.

Physical Characteristics: Steep terrain is a common characteristic throughout the entire unit which has been eroded by nine major drainages. The elevation ranges from 2,800 feet at the Burnt River Canyon road, to over 5,000 feet on many ridge tops. Intermittent streams dissect the area, leaving steep sloping ridges and basalt rock outcroppings. Sagebrush covers the majority of the unit, scattered with juniper, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir. Deer, elk, chukar, and blue grouse are abundant in most of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The western one-third of the unit has been heavily impacted by the works of man. There are many cat trails built for fire suppression, and some are presently used by vehicles. All are substantially noticeable due to the very evident road cuts and fills. They are located on ridge tops, side hills, and drainage bottoms. An abandoned roadway, with substantially noticeable cuts and fills, extends from the Kirby Reservoir to the mouth of Hooker Gulch. On the southern boundary, a telephone line crosses the boundary line many times but is substantially unnoticeable. Two fencelines cross the unit and were being re-built during the summer of 1979. These are minor intrusions.

Solitude: With the number of dead-end roads penetrating the unit, it is virtually impossible for the visitor to obtain outstanding solitude. The rugged terrain offers some good topographic screening. Most of the roads and trails are located along ridge tops and down drainages; consequently, it is easy to see or hear people. The irregular, thin shape of the eastern portion of the unit also prohibits the visitor from obtaining solitude. From this eastern portion (one-fourth mile wide) farmhouses, roads, irrigation ditches, and the Burnt River Canyon road dominate the experience.

Recreation: The area provides excellent habitat for, and numbers of, Hungarian partridge, blue grouse, mourning dove, chukar, deer and elk. Outstanding opportunities exist for hunting, horseback riding and day hikes. The scenery is spectacular.

Supplemental Values: Schuck's Ditch, built in 1877, begins at McElroy Creek and runs east along the Burnt River Canyon Road for about three miles. It has potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The portion of the unit adjoining the Burnt River Canyon contains a few plant species of interest. The endemic Snake River milkvetch (Astragalus vallaris), and Snake River nemophila (Nemophila kirtleyi) have been, or are currently, listed as being possible threatened or endangered. They appear on state lists but not federal compilations.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Five comments were received. Three concur with the proposed decision and two oppose it. One provides no information but the other suggests that Hooker Gulch and Blue Spring Gulch provide opportunities for solitude, and that the rugged topography along the north slope of the Burnt River Canyon has outstanding recreational values. Prime hunting areas are also identified.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The western 1/3 of the unit has been heavily impacted by fire suppression trails cut with heavy equipment, abandoned roads, and ways. These intrusions are substantially noticeable and rehabilitation using hand tools and labor or by allowing natural processes to run their course is not feasible. The remaining portion of the unit (4,000 acres) lacks sufficient size to make practicable its preservation as wilderness.

The comments disagreeing with the proposed decision state that the core of the area meets the requirements of the Wilderness Act, that the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and suggests that several roads should be closed to increase opportunities for solitude. The portion of the unit which is generally natural was re-evaluated and it is still considered that it is too small to make practicable its preservation, use and management as wilderness.

MEDFORD DISTRICT

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[illegible]

The [illegible]

Unit Number: 11-1

Unit Name: Mountain Lakes

Description

Size: 320 acres

Location: 15 miles northwest of Keno.

Boundaries: Private land on the north, east and south. The Mountain Lake Wilderness Area of the Winema National Forest on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The unit lies on the steep east slope of Aspen Butte. Within the unit, elevation rises from 5,000 to 6,300 feet. Vegetation consists of dense brush fields and some sparse stands of conifers.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: This unit by itself does not meet the minimum size criterion. It is included in the intensive inventory because it adjoins an existing wilderness area.

Naturalness: There are no noticeable imprints of human activities in this unit. It appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: When considered as an addition to the adjoining Mountain Lake Wilderness Area, this unit would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: When considered as an addition to the adjoining wilderness area, this unit would offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities, such as hiking and backpacking.

Supplemental Values: The unit has values as an undisturbed watershed and as wildlife habitat.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 320-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Fifteen comments were received; they all concur with the proposed decision.

Final Decision: Designate a 320-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: When considered in combination with the adjacent Mountain Lakes Wilderness, the unit possesses the necessary size, naturalness, solitude, and recreation attributes.

Unit Number: 11-16

Unit Name: Zane Grey

Description

Size: 18,460 acres. There is one 50-acre private inholding.

Location: Approximately three miles north of Galice.

Boundaries: Most of the unit is bounded by revested Oregon and California grant lands which are being managed to support commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis and are thereby exempt from wilderness review. Small segments of the boundary are defined by BLM roads in four places and by private property in seven places. Two dead-end roads run into the unit for about one mile each. Both of these roads lead to, and partially bound, inlying tracts of commercial timberland which are not part of the wilderness inventory unit. In addition to these two large tracts, there are numerous smaller inlying tracts of commercial timber land scattered throughout the unit. These inliers of commercial timber land are excluded from the unit. Approximately one-half mile of the southwest boundary is adjacent to the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area.

Physical Characteristics: The area has very steep mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 400 to 3,800 feet. The Rogue River crosses the center of the unit and there are many small perennial tributary streams. The slopes on the sides of the stream valleys commonly exceed 50 percent and the valley bottoms are very narrow. Mixed hardwood and coniferous forests cover most of the unit with brushfields and occasional meadows on the remainder.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size critera.

Naturalness: Much of the land within the unit is undisturbed by human activities. However, there is a variety of developments and impacts from human works concentrated along and near the Rogue River, through the core of the unit. These include abandoned buildings and material from past mining activities, current mining activities, the historic Whiskey Creek Cabin which is maintained by the BLM, the Rogue River Trail which has six bridges within the unit, a burned over area above Bunker Creek which was logged leaving visible stumps and skid trails, and flood debris which includes a small barge. In addition, the Grave Creek boat landing and the historic Rogue River Ranch are located on the unit's perimeter, at either end of the Rogue River Trail. The combination of the location of these disturbances, the steep slopes above the valley and the narrow configuration of the unit results in a situation where the intrusions on naturalness would be unavoidably obvious to wilderness users. Though much of the terrain in the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, the imprints of man's works are substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The unit has features such as dense vegetation, diverse topography with deep valleys, and rushing water which provide natural screening and opportunities for solitude. The steep terrain and dense vegetation also have the effect of restricting human activities to narrow corridors where the likelihood of encountering others is greatly increased. The western part of the unit borders the Wild Rogue Wilderness for about one-half mile. This portion of the unit is a narrow projection along the Rogue River where there are few opportunities for solitude. Throughout the remainder of the unit there are narrow peninsulas and inlying tracts of commercial timber which leave the wilderness inventory unit with a very irregular configuration, providing only limited opportunities for solitude. Because of its configuration and the physical characteristics which confine activities this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The Congressionally designated Rogue Wild and Scenic River, which traverses the unit for 26 miles, provides outstanding opportunities for whitewater rafting, kayaking, and fishing. Other opportunities include hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation, and sightseeing.

Supplemental Values: The unit includes two sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are significant remnants of the gold mining and settlement history of the region. Battle sites of the Rogue Indian wars exist within the unit as do some significant archaeologicals sites. Numerous waterfalls, plunge pools, and other points of great scenic beauty occur along the Rogue and within other drainages throughout the area.

The unit includes habitat of the northern spotted owl, northern bald eagle, osprey, cougar, bear, and Roosevelt elk. Critical deer winter range is included in the unit. Some tributaries are spawning habitat for anadromous fish. The Rogue River is a major migratory route for Chinook and Coho salmon and steelhead. One suspected threatened and one proposed endangered plant specie are found within the unit. They are sedum moranii and Lewisia cotyledon ssp. Howelii.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: A total of 33 comments by 38 persons were received on Unit 11-16. Of these, 20 persons recommended the unit be studied for wilderness designation. Fourteen stated that the unit should not be studied. Four comments made no recommendation for or against study.

Many commentors referred to issues more appropriately considered later in the wilderness review such as whether additional land in the region should be committed to wilderness use or whether primitive recreation opportunities in the unit were adequately protected.

Nine commentors felt that the characteristics of naturalness and/or solitude were present without significant impairment. Two parties complained of inconsistencies between the case file analysis and the recommendation's rationale. One party criticized the process for being highly subjective in interpretation and application. Two parties called for enlargement of the unit; two called for study of subunits. Nine parties identified supplemental values, some of them specifying watershed values and ecological diversity.

One person felt no primitive recreation opportunities were present; six felt that intrusions precluded the presence of naturalness or solitude. Four persons cited conflicts with timber harvesting as reasons for not studying the unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Among the comments received were statements that both naturalness and solitude were present within the unit. Portions of the unit lack opportunities for solitude due to their extremely narrow and elongated shape. Many points exist where slopes are extremely steep and the boundary is located at mid-slope or at the drainage bottom. In these areas less than a mile separates the boundary from the center. At many points the unit ranges from one-half to only one-tenth of a mile in width.

In all of these areas, the adjacent land is committed by Act of Congress to commercial timber production. In this setting apparent naturalness and opportunities for solitude are so slight as to not provide a wilderness experience.

Throughout the rest of the unit man-made structures and signs of human use, such as mining waste and debris, exist. These intrusions include a barge, concrete bridge abutments, the steel superstructure of a bridge, buildings, and other mining-related material. They are located so as to be unavoidably obvious to the visitor in the unit and their removal by hand labor or natural means is not feasible. They constitute an unacceptable loss of naturalness in the unit.

Comments called for the identification of subunits of surrounding unroaded land for study after deleting intrusions. No subunit boundaries were suggested and a review of the unit shows none are possible.

The exclusion of those portions of the unit lacking naturalness or outstanding opportunities for solitude leaves no portion intact which could be a viable wilderness review unit. Unit configuration would be extremely narrow and misshapen, and acreage would be insufficient.

Likewise no adjacent unroaded land is eligible for the review due to land-use commitments stated in the O&C Act.

Two comments indicated inconsistencies between the case file narrative and the recommendation's rationale. The inventory case file contains a report from the staff specialist who conducted the wilderness inventory to the district manager. The specialist reported that he believed the unit possessed wilderness characteristics. After reviewing the information in the report, the district manager reported to the state director that he believed the unit did not have wilderness characteristics and recommended that the unit not be designated a study area. The state director adopted the district manager's recommendation.

Numerous comments attested to the presence of a variety of supplemental values in the unit. It is recognized that significant supplemental values exist but, while they enhance the unit's value, they are not sufficient for designation of the unit as a wilderness study area.

Unit Number: 11-17

Unit Name: Soda Mountain

Description

Size: 5,640 acres.

Location: 18 miles southeast of Ashland.

Boundaries: On the west a combination of the Schohiem road, private land and public land which is exempt from wilderness review; on the north a combination of private and exempt public lands; on the east exempt public land; and the Schohiem road on the south.

Physical Characteristics: The unit has very steep terrain ranging in elevation from 2,800 to 5,700 feet. Camp Creek, Dutch Oven Creek and Salt Creek run through the unit. The vegetation is varied with stands of mixed conifers and hardwoods, extensive dense brush fields and some open grassy slopes.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criterion.

Naturalness: There is a well used campsite on Camp Creek, a powerline along the eastern boundary, about two miles of fenceline, and a jeep trail in the southeast portion of the unit between Schohiem road and the powerline. Because of the vegetation and the rugged topography these developments are not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The terrain and vegetation provide natural screening. It is possible to experience a sense of remoteness and to find secluded spots within the unit. The opportunities for solitude are outstanding, but somewhat limited in number by the size and terrain of the unit.

Recreation: The unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding and hunting. In addition there is great botanical diversity and opportunities for bird watching and animal observation. Abundant water, scenic vistas, and interesting and challenging terrain all add to the quality of the recreational opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The south slopes provide deer winter range with the southeastern portion of the unit designated as critical winter range. The Pacific Crest Trail borders the northwestern portion of the unit. There is great ecological diversity and there may be threatened and endangered plant species in the unit.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 5,640-acre wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty-three comments were received. Twenty concur with the proposed decision. Three oppose WSA status, one because wilderness designation would deny vehicular access and the use of other natural resources, another arguing that the area should remain available for multiple use, and the third expresses concern about vehicle access to Agate Flats for rock hounds.

Final Decision: Designate a 5,640-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: The unit meets the size criterion. It is primarily affected by the forces of nature with man's imprint largely unnoticeable. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. It provides excellent opportunities for primitive types of recreation and possesses supplemental values as well.

COOS BAY DISTRICT

Introduction

The six wilderness review inventory units in the Coos Bay District are off-shore marine islands. While most of Oregon's federally owned coastal islands have been, or are in the process of being, transferred to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) the islands in these six units have been retained by BLM and are included in the intensive inventory. One public comment opposes BLM's retention of any of Oregon's off-shore marine islands and advocates transfer of them all to FWS. The same comment opposes BLM's proposed decisions to eliminate some of the islands from further wilderness review. It argues that they should all be WSAs since similar islands (among those transferred to FWS) have been designated by Congress as part of the Oregon Islands Wilderness Area. Refer to the introduciton to this report for a detailed discussion of Oregon's coastal islands and the reasons for transferring some but not all of them to the FWS. Those islands retained by the BLM have been evaluated according to BLM's wilderness inventory guidelines.

Unit Number: 12-8A

Unit Name: North Sisters Rocks

Description

Size: Three rocks each approximately one acre in size.

Location: Approximately midway between Port Orford and Gold Beach.

Boundaries: Surrounded by Pacific Ocean surf at high tide and attached to an exposed sand and rock beach at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: One rock rises 134 feet and another 78 feet above sea level. All three have steep cliffs and steep rolling tops, with broadleaf evergreen coastal shrubs and patches of grass on top.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: All three rocks appear to be essentially natural with no man-made disturbance visible. A small remnant of an archaeologic site is located on one rock (a portion of the site has slipped into the sea). Well-worn foot trails lead up the cliffs from the beach to the top of two of the rocks.

Solitude: The rocks are located on an isolated and undeveloped beach one-half mile north of Sisters Rock, a natural landmark on the coast. Sisters Rock is accessible from US Highway 101 by an old quarry access road. The rocks are surrounded by surf at high tide and washed by surf on three sides at low tide. On numerous occasions they may reward some visitors with an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days, and especially during the summer tourist season, opportunities for solitude are diminished due to the small size of the rocks and the relatively easy hike up the beach.

Recreation: The rocks offer opportunities for rock fishing, observation of marine tidal pools, photography, hiking, and beach combing, but these opportunities are not outstanding when compared to similiar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon. A primitive and unconfined recreation experience would be limited by the small size of the rocks.

Supplemental Values: A remnant of an archealogic site on one rock and rare herbaceous plants on all three rocks.

Proposed Decision: Designate North Sisters Rock as a wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning this specific unit. See the introduction to the Coos Bay section for a summary of a comment pertaining to all units in the Coos Bay District.

Final Decision: Designate North Sisters Rocks as a wilderness study area.

Rationale: The North Sisters Rocks appear generally natural with the imprint of man substantially unnoticable. The rocks offer outstanding, albeit very limited, opportunities for solitude, but do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 12-10A

Unit name: Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks

Description

Size: Eight rocks, the largest of which is less than one acre.

Location: Two miles north of Pistol River.

Boundaries: At high tide the eight rocks are surrounded by surf; at low tide an exposed sandy beach extends out to the rocks.

Physical Characteristics: Near vertical rock faces; four of the eight rocks rise over 100 feet. Several of the rocks have sea caves through which waves surge. None of the rocks have flat tops or any woody vegetation, but a number of herbaceous plants are found in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rocks appear to be natural with no imprint of man discernable.

Solitude: The rocks are 200 to 300 yards from a paved roadside pulloff from US Highway 101, a heavily travelled tourist and trucking route. They are readily accessible at low tide over an exposed sandy beach. On a nice day in the summer at low tide, a dozen people or more might be expected to be out amongst the rocks. There is no practical opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks are highly scenic and a very popular place for tourists to stop for beach combing and photography. The rocks do not offer any opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation other than possibly rock climbing (the rock is soft weathered sandstone and siltstone and foot-and-handholds break off easily making climbing hazardous). Opportunities for recreation are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are a number of rare plants in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate the Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning this specific unit. See the introduction to the Coos Bay section for a summary of a comment relating to all units in the district.

Final Decision: Eliminate the Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the Pistol River-Myers Creek Rocks are essentially natural they offer no real opportunity for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 12-12A

Unit Name: Lone Ranch Rocks

Description

Size: A number of nearshore rocks, the largest of which are approximately one acre in size.

Location: Five miles north of Brookings off US Highway 101.

Boundaries: The rocks are attached by sand and rock to Lone Ranch Beach at low tide; at high tide the rocks are surrounded by surf.

Physical Characteristics: Most of the rocks are wave-washed during storms; a few of the larger rocks support herbaceous plants in small niches and on narrow ledges.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rocks appear to be essentially natural with no apparent man-made disturbances except for some well-worn foot trails to the tops of several of the rocks.

Solitude: Lone Ranch Beach is part of Samuel Boardman State Park. There is a paved access road to a parking lot and sanitary facility near the beach. A number of people are usually found on the beach during nice weather and many of these people climb out on the rocks at low tide when they are accessible. The rocks do not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Recreation: The rocks offer opportunities for beach combing, and fishing, but these opportunities are not outstanding when considered in context of the south coast of Oregon.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate the Lone Ranch Rocks from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning this specific unit. See the introduction to the Coos Bay section for a summary of a comment relating to all units in the district.

Final Decision: Eliminate the Lone Ranch Rocks from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The Lone Ranch Rocks appear to be natural but offer no opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Unit Number: 12-13A

Unit Name: Harris Island and an unnamed rock off Harris Beach

Description

Size: Approximately two to three acres.

Location: Adjacent to Harris Beach State Park, approximately one mile northwest of Brookings.

Boundaries: At high tide Harris Island and the unnamed rock are surrounded by the Pacific Ocean; at low tide the east ends are connected by a rock and sand spit to Harris Beach.

Physical Characteristics: Harris Island is flat topped and rises abruptly in near-vertical rock cliffs to 65 feet in elevation. The unnamed rock rises abruptly in steep slopes to 117 feet in elevation and is pierced by a sea cave through which waves surge. A shallow soil mantle supports broadleaf evergreen coastal scrub vegetation intermixed with a few grass patches.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: The island and unnamed rock appear to be natural with no recent or historic man-made developments. Harris Island does, however, contain a known archaelogic site. Well-defined trails extend from the beach up to the top of the island and the rock.

Solitude: Harris Island and the unnamed rock on some occasions no doubt offer some visitors an opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days and especially during the summer tourist season it would be very difficult to experience solitude due to the proximity of Harris Beach State Park, the relatively easy accessibility at low tide, the small size and lack of vegetative/togographic screening. Overall, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities for fishing among the rocks including skin diving for abalone, observation of marine life in tidal pools, photography, hiking, and beach combing, but these opportunities could not be considered outstanding when compared to similar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon.

Supplemental Values: Harris Island contains an archaelogical site and some rare herbaceous plants.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning this specific unit. See the introduction to the Coos Bay section for a summary of a comment relating to all units in the district.

Final Decision: Eliminate Harris Island and the unnamed rock from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Harris Island and the unnamed rock (elev. 117) appear to be natural, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Opportunities for solitude, while present on some occasions, especially during inclement weather, are difficult to maintain on nice sunny days during the summer tourist season, due to the proximity to a developed state park, the relatively easy access, and small size. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are extremely limited by the small size and not outstanding in the context of the south coast of Oregon.

Unit Number: 12-14A

Unit Name: Zwagg Island and Table Rock

Description

Size: Zwagg Island is approximately five acres in size; Table Rock approximately one acre.

Location: Offshore of a developed residential area of Brookings and immediately adjacent to Mill Beach, which is an undeveloped state beach accessible to the public only by foot.

Boundaries: At high tides in the winter months with prevailing southwest winds, Mill Beach is greatly reduced in width by wave action and Zwagg Island and Table Rock are surrounded by surf. At high tides during the summer months with prevailing northwest winds, littoral sands are deposited and Zwagg Island and Table Rock are attached to a wider Mill Beach. Zwagg Island is always surrounded on three sides by the ocean while only the tip of Table Rock juts out into the Pacific at high tide in the summer. At low tides, Zwagg Island is attached to the extensive exposed sands of Mill Beach at one end but remains surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on three sides. At low tides Table Rock is often surrounded by the more extensive exposed sands of Mill Beach.

Physical Characteristics: Zwagg Island and Table Rock are flat topped and rise abruptly in near vertical cliffs from sea level to 102 and 62 feet, respectively.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both Zwagg Island and Table Rock appear essentially natural with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. However, Zwagg Island contains an archeolgical site of some significance. Zwagg Island was also inhabited by a hermit in the early 1900's. Some remnants of his dwelling and garden fencing have been found.

Solitude: Zwagg Island on numerous occasions offers visitors an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This is especially true during the frequent occasions of rain, strong winds, and fog. During the less frequent clear days, and especially during the summer tourist season, it would be more difficult to experience solitude due to the small size of the island and the relatively easy trail from Mill Beach, which is lightly used by the public. Zwagg Island appears to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, but Table Rock does not because it is too closely associated with Mill Beach.

Recreation: Zwagg Island offers opportunities for fishing among the rocks including skindiving for abalone, observation of marine life, phototgraphy, and hiking, but these opportunities would not be considered outstanding when compared to similar opportunities along the south coast of Oregon. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience are limited by Zwagg Island's small size. Table Rock is too small to offer primitive recreation opportunities, except for a short hike to the top.

Supplemental Values: Zwagg Island has an archaelogical site and rare herbaceous plants.

Proposed Decision: Designate Zwagg Island as a wilderness study area; exclude Table Rock because it lacks wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Public Comments: At a public meeting in Brookings, Oregon on April 16, 1980, sixteen people supported wilderness study of Zwagg Island and eight people opposed further wilderness review (two of these eight people allege ownership of Zwagg Island, which has been the subject of a cadastral survey). Four written comments, one with nineteen signatures, all concurring with the proposed decision were also received.

Final Decision: Designate Zwagg Island as a wilderness study area; eliminate Table Rock from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Zwagg Island and Table Rock appear to be generally natural with the imprint of man's work unnoticeable. Zwagg Island offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, but does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM has reviewed the ownership of Zwagg

Island and determined that it is public land. The parties alleging private ownership have been notified of that determination and of their right to appeal the determination to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Table Rock does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Number: 12-15

Unit Name: Fish Rock

Description

Size: A large rock approximately one acre in size.

Location: Just south of Bandon.

Boundaries: Surrounded by Pacific Ocean at high tide and attached to an exposed sand and rock beach at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: Flat-topped, rising only several feet above sea level, wave washed during storms.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Essentially natural in appearance.

Solitude: This rock is a popular fishing spot less than one-quarter mile from a paved parking lot with sanitary facilities, in Bandon State Park. Thus, it does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The beach and Fish Rock is a popular fishing spot but does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received concerning this specific unit.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the rock appears to be natural it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

SPOKANE DISTRICT

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Unit Number: 13-1

Unit Name: Juniper Forest

Description

Size: 7,806 acres of public land, with 472 acres of private inholdings.

Location: 18 miles northeast of Pasco.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded on the northwest, north, east, and south by private land, by a powerline on the southwest corner, and by roads and private land on the west.

Physical Characteristics: The Juniper Forest area is made up almost entirely of sand dunes in various stages of stabilization. Large areas of active dunes are found in the northeast and central sections of the unit. Western juniper trees are scattered throughout the unit with two major groves of junipers centrally located within a 4,600-acre area closed to off-road vehicle use. Vegetation consists primarily of mixtures of sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, bluegrass, wheatgrass, needlegrass, and cheatgrass.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Impacts on naturalness within the Juniper Forest include: approximately 11 miles of barbed wire fence; ORV trails and ways which are concentrated in the southwest portion of the unit; two firebreaks in the northeast section; seven water guzzlers; and a gas pipeline exposed in numerous places along the west boundary of the unit. There are numerous outside sights and sounds which have a significant impact on the naturalness of the unit. These include cultivated fields which border the unit on three sides and are visible from virtually everywhere in the unit except low spots between the dunes. Traffic noise from nearby highways and from the Tri-Cities Airport are inescapable. Off-road vehicle use takes place outside and adjacent to the unit and its noise can be heard within the unit. At night, the lights of the Tri-Cities and nearby farms are visible from everywhere except the low spots. Several powerlines can also be seen from the unit. When taken individually none of these impacts on naturalness is particularly significant. However, their cumulative effect on this fairly small unit which has low-lying topography and very little vegetative screening is a situation in which man's works are substantially noticeable and the area appears generally unnatural.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude in the Juniper Forest are limited. The lack of vegetative screening, topography, as well as the size and configuration of the unit detract from any outstanding opportunities. Localized opportunities for solitude do exist at the base of the dunes.

Recreation: The unit offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography bird watching, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. However, none of these opportunities are considered outstanding in the unit. Currently, use occurs primarily during the cooler months of the year.

Supplemental Values: The Juniper Forest is unique in Washington State. The unit possesses the largest area of active sand dunes in the State, the State's largest concentration of western juniper, one of the larger steppe vegetation concentrations in the State, and provides habitat for several wildlife species important to the State, including the ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew, sage thrasher, kangaroo rat, pygmy rabbit, and the sage sparrow.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Nearly 400 comments were received concerning this inventory unit. About 180 of the comments either directly or indirectly support the proposed decision. One supporting comment is a petition with over 280 signatures. Over 200 comments either explicitly or implicitly oppose the proposed decision. Many of the comments do not refer specifically to the proposed decision published in March 1980. However, all comments concerning the unit, whether received at the Spokane District Office, the State Office, or at public meetings in Washington and Oregon, have been recorded.

Virtually all of the comments which support the proposed decision are from people who want the area open to off-road vehicle recreation. They support the proposed decision to eliminate the area from further wilderness review because of their awareness that future designation of the area as wilderness would close it to motorized vehicles. Many of them mention the wilderness characteristics of naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. In so doing they generally agree with the statements published in the narrative on the proposed decision.

A few comments agreeing with the proposed decision are from people who are not interested in off-road vehicle use of the area. While they agree that the unit does not possess the wilderness characteristics that are required by the BLM wilderness review for wilderness study areas, they urge that BLM protect the unique ecological values of the area. They suggest that additional areas be closed to off-road vehicles, that the area be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, or that the BLM use some other management tool to eliminate adverse impacts from off-road vehicles.

A number of the comments which oppose the proposed decision disagree with BLM's evaluations of naturalness, and opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. They argue that BLM has given too much weight to the impact of human sights and sounds from outside the unit boundaries. It is mentioned that since aircraft noise can hardly be avoided anywhere, it ought not to be a significant factor in evaluating this one unit. Similarly they suggest that night lights should not be considered substantially noticeable because most visitors to the area use it during the day and because city lights do not wash out most stars. They suggest that the very presence of the ferruginous hawk, a species sensitive to human disturbance, is an indication that the unit is essentially natural and free from impacts of human developments. Many comments suggest that the sand dunes and juniper trees provide adequate screening and that the opportunities for solitude are outstanding. It is suggested that the opportunities for hiking, photography, bird watching and nature study are outstanding.

The strongest and most numerous arguments in opposition to the proposed decision concern the supplemental values of the inventory unit. The area is one of the few remaining examples of relatively undisturbed steppe habitat in Washington and it supports a unique wildlife community. A number of comments provided detailed information about the ecological values and specific plants and animals. Listing on the threatened species list for Washington is pending for two animals found in the area, the pygmy rabbit and the ferruginous hawk. It is suggested that the ecological and natural values are increased because of the accessibility of the unit to nearby cities and because many colleges and universities can easily use the area for ecology field trips.

A number of comments, from both sides of the issue, suggest that use by off-road vehicles and the preservation of a natural area are not necessarily incompatible in the Juniper Forest area. They suggest that both needs can be accommodated, in separate parts of the area, and urge that the resources be shared.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit does not appear generally natural with the impacts of man being substantially noticeable. None of the impacts are significant enough by themselves to automatically eliminate the unit. However, their cumulative effect on the area's naturalness is significant. The Juniper Forest does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This determination was based on a number of factors with no one factor automatically excluding the unit.

The decision regarding wilderness will have no effect on the current off-road vehicle (ORV) closure. This closure will remain intact providing protection to the major dunes and juniper groves of the area. Regular patrols of the area are conducted by BLM and Washington State Game personnel.

Although the unit possesses excellent supplemental values, an area cannot become a wilderness study area on supplemental values alone.

Unit Number: 13-2

Unit Name: Chopaka Mountain

Description

Size: 5,560 acres of public land with 94.86 acres private inholdings.

Location: Approximately 15 miles west of Oroville.

Boundaries: The unit has State land as a west boundary; mixed State and private as a south boundary; private land on the east, and Canada on the north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The majority of the unit lies on the lower two thirds of the very steep and rugged eastern slopes of the Chopaka Mountain Range. The southern third of the unit contains Bowers Lake, the north half of Chopaka Lake, and a steep, open pastureland. Vegetation is made up of a variety of trees, including pockets of subalpine fir, whitebark pine, lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and associated low shrubs and grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural. In the proposed intensive inventory decision issued in March 1980, this unit was described as appearing unnatural, with the most significant impacts on naturalness located in the vicinity of Chopaka Lake. Public comment on this proposed decision suggested that the impacted Chopaka Lake area be dropped from the unit. This has been done. In the extreme southwest corner of the unit there are two water developments, several ways, and a barbed wire fence. These do not detract sufficiently from the naturalness of the unit to cause its disqualification based on the naturalness criteria. The remainder of the unit is natural with no evidence of man's activities except for some evidence of mining activity in the northern portion. It is not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The March 1980 proposed intensive inventory report stated that this unit did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most public comments pointed out that due to the extreme steepness and rugged terrain of the unit outstanding opportunities do exist. The unit was reevaluated, taking these comments into account. The unit does contain opportunities for solitude, particularly on the northern slopes and on the northern edge of Chopaka Lake and around Bowers Lake.

Recreation: Due to the steepness of the unit, good recreational opportunities are limited to the northern edge of Chopaka Lake and the area around Bowers Lake. Best opportunities are for fishing and primitive camping at Chopaka Lake and hunting. These opportunities are not considered to be outstanding. Observation of mountain goats is considered to be "outstanding" by the State Game Department, but the opportunity for viewing the goats is from outside the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit contains a population of mountain goats and white-tailed ptarmigan, providing scenic and ecological values. Old cabins and mines have some historical value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Thirty-three comments were received. Eight concur with the proposed decision and twenty-five are opposed to it. Concerning naturalness, it is mentioned that most of the developments and impacts which detract from naturalness are on the unit's periphery, where selected areas could be eliminated from further review, leaving an essentially natural area that could qualify as a WSA. A number of comments identify what is perceived to be an inconsistency in BLM's evaluation of recreation potential. They point out that on one hand, BLM attributes the lack of naturalness to heavy recreational use while on the other hand, BLM concludes that the opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding. Concerning solitude, some comments suggest that the extreme steepness and ruggedness of the terrain in the northern two-thirds of the unit are the very attributes that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Several comments mention wildlife and rare plants as additional factors that make it appropriate to identify this unit as a WSA. One comment suggests that the adjoining Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) roadless lands be studied along with Unit 13-2. This comment and others suggest that the DNR lands and the Pasayten Wilderness Area adjacent to the DNR lands are additional factors favoring Unit 13-2 as a WSA.

Final Decision: Designate a 5,520-acre wilderness study area. Eliminate 40 acres from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Following evaluation of public comments on this unit, it was decided to delete the heavily impacted area around Chopaka Lake from the unit. This would leave an area which does appear generally natural. Range developments of the type found in the southwest portion of the unit are acceptable in wilderness areas and are judged as not to be detrimental to the naturalness of the unit.

Several comments questioned the judgment that outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit. These suggest that the extremely steep and rugged terrain in the northern two-thirds of the unit do provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. We have reevaluated this portion of the unit and agree that opportunities for solitude do exist.

General Summary of Public Comments on Washington's Marine Islands

Summary of Public Comments: Seven comments were received that mentioned marine islands in general or referred by unit number to one or more specific islands. Two comments mentioned their agreement with the proposed decision to identify Unit 13-24 as a WSA. All seven are opposed to the proposed decisions to eliminate the other marine island from further wilderness review. In general they suggest that the islands be WSA's because of their wildlife values. Some of the comments argue that BLM inappropriately used a size criterion in its evaluation of the wilderness characteristics of the islands. One suggests that the marine islands in the San Juan Islands be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Response: The wildlife values of the marine islands are noted under the category "supplemental values." A unit having excellent supplemental values does not automatically qualify as a WSA.

The Wilderness Inventory Handbook states that size is a factor to be considered in determining whether a unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area are made up of islands formerly under BLM administration. The FWS had the opportunity to request withdrawal of all the islands, but requested withdrawal of only those islands they felt had important wildlife values.

Unit Number: 13-3

Unit Name: Lummi Rocks

Description

Size: Approximately 8 acres of public land currently leased to Western Washington University for marine ecological studies.

Location: About one-quarter mile from Lummi Island, about ten miles southwest of Bellingham.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of a group of rocky outcrops connected by a sandbar at low tide. The rocks have a good overall grass cover with sparse shrubs occurring in places.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The only imprint of man is a Coast Guard navigational marker. Otherwise the unit is generally natural.

Solitude: Limited opportunities exist due to the small size and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The only major activity would appear to be sightseeing with nature study a second possibility. Other activities would appear to be precluded by the size and rocky nature of the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit would appear to have some ecological value as evidenced by the lease to the University. The scenic values would also be considered good.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears generally natural but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-4

Unit Name: Blind Island

Description

Size: Approximately 2 acres, currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: At the mouth of Blind Bay on the northside of Shaw Island, about one-quarter mile west of the ferry landing.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a somewhat flat, dome-shaped rock with good grass cover, and a few scattered trees and shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: State Parks has placed picnic tables, fireplaces, moorage facilities, and a pit toilet on the island. Otherwise, the island appears generally natural.

Solitude: Opportunities in the unit are very limited due to the generally flat topography, lack of vegetational screening, and small size.

Recreation: No opportunities for unconfined recreation exist because of the island's small size. Moderate opportunities for primitive recreation exist mostly as a result of State Parks developments and the location of the island.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that the unit has values for wildlife which include seals, seabirds, and eagles.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although generally natural, the unit lacks opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-5

Unit Name: Chuckanut Rocks

Description

Size: Less than one acre, currently leased to Western Washington University.

Location: About two miles south of Bellingham in Chuckanut Bay.

Physical Characteristics: Chuckanut Rock is a small, steep-sided rocky island with sparse grass and low brush.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude are available due to the extremely small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are very limited due to the size and rocky nature of the island. There could be some potential for sightseeing, but not outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit does have important wildlife and marine biology values as evidenced by the lease to the University for studies and research.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is free from the imprints of man's work but does not have opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-6

Unit Name: Fauntleroy Rock

Description

Size: Less than one acre.

Location: About 100 feet east of Decatur Island in a small bay. It is about one mile from a Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness rock.

Physical Characteristics: Fauntleroy Rock is a low rock pile, sparsely vegetated with grass and one shrub, with an elevation of about 10 feet above sea level.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude are available due to the extremely small size, flat topography, and sparse vegetation.

Recreation: Opportunities are very limited by the small size and poor access. One or two people might potentially camp on the island, but it does not offer any outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: The unit may have some minor wildlife value, but none is apparent.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wildernesss review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears natural, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-7

Unit Name: Dot Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre at low tide; underwater at high tide. Currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: Dot Rock is less than one-quarter mile southeast of Decatur Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is an extremely small rock outcropping with no vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist due to the extremely small size and lack of any vegetation.

Recreation: No opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist because of the extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value as a seabird roost.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although natural, the unit is has no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-8

Unit Name: Lopez Rock

The rock could not be found during the inventory. The only rock in the vicinity, Small Island, is part of the designated Fish and Wildlife Service San Juan Wilderness.

Unit Number: 13-9

Unit Name: Read's Bay Island

Description

Size: A little over three acres.

Location: Read's Bay Island is about 200 feet west of the southern tip of Decatur Island. It is within about one-half mile of two Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flattened dome-shaped island with fairly heavy grass cover and a few isolated fir trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: A concrete foundation is located on the northwest side of the island which, because of the small size and lack of vegetational screening, is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude in this unit are very limited and not outstanding due to the small size, lack of topographic relief, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are limited by the small size and lack of good access. Camping and sightseeing opportunities have some potential but are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit lacks naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-10

Unit Name: Twin Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of two rocks about one acre each.

Location: Twin Rocks are about 100 yards east of Orcas Island in the southern section of East Sound. They are within two miles of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands.

Physical Characteristics: The unit consists of two flat rocks about 10 feet high with a good grass cover, sparse brush, and poor access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The only apparent imprint of man is an old sign post on the eastern island. Otherwise, both islands appear natural.

Solitude: Twin Rocks offer no opportunity for solitude because of their small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: The unit could have some potential for camping and sightseeing opportunities, but these opportunities are limited by the size, nature, and access and cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: There are apparently some minor wildlife values associated with the unit.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit, while generally natural, offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-11

Unit Name: Barnes Rocks

Description

Size: The unit is made up of four small rocks with a total area of less than one acre for all four together.

Location: The rocks are located from 5 to 100 yards off the north and northeast end of Barnes Island. A Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness island is within one mile.

Physical Characteristics: Barnes Rocks are a group of very small rocks, two of which are underwater at high tide, with no vegetation on any of them. At medium tide they were about three feet above the water.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no imprints of man's work noticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the island's extremely small size and complete lack of vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the unit's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Barnes Rocks do have some wildlife values with heavy bird roosting apparent.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit is completely natural, there are no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-12

Unit Name: Clark Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of two small rocks with a total area of less than one-fourth acre.

Location: The rocks are located within 20 feet of the western shore of Clark Island and are connected to the island at low tide.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of two rounded rocks with no vegetation, about 20 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 3 feet high.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude, due to the rock's extremely small size and lack of any vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the unit's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Clark Rocks are natural but offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-14

Unit Name: Matia Rock

Description

Size: Two acres of public land within 100 yards of a State-developed campground and boat dock on Matia Island. Remainder of Matia Island is Fish and Wildlife Service Wilderness.

Location: Matia Rock is immediately northwest of Matia Island within Rolfe Cove.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a small rounded island with very steep rocky sides making access very difficult. There is a heavy covering of vegetation with trees and brush in the central area of the unit.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Matia rock appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited by the small size of the unit and flat topography.

Recreation: Recreation opportunities are very limited by the small size of Matia Rock, its difficult access, and availability of Matia Island State Park within a couple of hundred feet.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value according to the State Game Department. In addition, good scenic values are present on the rock.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Matia Rock, although having no noticeable imprints of man, does not offer any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-15

Unit Name: Davis Bay Island and Rocks

Description

Size: The unit has less than two acres total spread out over two main groups of rocks.

Location: The rocks are located 5 to 100 yards off the southwest shore of Lopez Island in the west side of Davis Bay. Four Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands are within one-half mile radius.

Physical Characteristics: Davis Bay Island and Rocks are low, flat, unvegetated rocks under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on any of the rocks.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on the unit due to its extremely small size, lack of vegetation, and flat topography.

Recreation: Davis Bay Island and Rocks offer no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Only apparent value is as a seabird roost and seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears free from imprints of man but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-16

Unit Name: Richardson Rock

Description

Size: Less than two acres.

Location: The unit is about 75 feet south of Lopez Island and just north of Charles Island. It is within one-half mile of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands.

Physical Characteristics: Richardson Rock is a small, flat-topped island with steep banks. Vegetation consists of a couple of trees, scattered shrubs, and grass cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the island's small size.

Recreation: Richardson Rock offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the island's small size and difficult access.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that Richardson Rock is heavily used for seabird roosting and is a seal haul-out area, although no use was apparent at time of inventory.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears natural, there are no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-17

Unit Name: Skull Island

Description

Size: Less than three acres of public land leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: Skull Island is on the north tip of West Sound about 200 feet south of Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a fairly flat, rocky, steeply banked island with patchy grass and brush, and a few shrubby trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very limited by the island's small size, generally flat topography, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: There may be some potential camping or sightseeing opportunities on the unit but they are not outstanding because of the small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Skull Island shows no imprints of man but offers no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-18

Unit Name: Harbor Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of a group of small rocks totalling less than one acre of public land.

Location: The rocks in this unit are in the West Sound of Orcas Island, lying from 100 feet to one-half mile from the shore of the main island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of low, flat, unvegetated rocks, some under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit is completely natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the rocks' extremely small size, lack of any vegetation, and low profile.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on this unit because of the extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Wildlife values appear to be the only supplemental values in the unit. The State Game Department stated the area was valuable as a seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Harbor Rocks appear generally natural but have no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-19

Unit Name: Trinka Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: The unit is located about 50 feet north of Sheep Island and about 200 feet south of the West Sound Marina on Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: Trinka Rock is a small, rocky island with some grass and two shrubby trees, connected to Sheep Island at low tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The rock appears natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the unit's extremely small size.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the rock's extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: Trinka Rock possesses no known supplemental value.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Trinka Rock appears generally natural but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-20

Unit Name: Oak Island and Rock

Description

Size: Oak Island is less than one acre; Oak Rock is less than one-half acre.

Location: The unit is located in the southeast section of West Sound about 200 yards from the shore of Orcas Island for Oak Island, and about 100 feet for the rock.

Physical Characteristics: The island is fairly flat, rocky, with good grass cover and a few trees. The rock is flat with grass.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on the unit and it appears completely natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the unit's small size and flat topography.

Recreation: There could potentially be some minor camping or sightseeing opportunities on Oak Island but they are not outstanding because of the extremely small size. The rock has no opportunities at all because of an even smaller size and lack of any vegetational screening.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Oak Island and Rock appear natural with no imprints of man's work, but lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-21

Unit Name: Victim Island

Description

Size: About three acres of public land which are currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: The unit is about 100 yards east of Orcas Island in the southwest area of West Sound.

Physical Characteristics: Victim Island is a relatively tall island with heavy vegetational cover of fir, madrone, shrubs, and grass. Access could be somewhat hard, due to the rocky shoreline.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man.

Solitude: While Victim Island does have good vegetational screening and some topographic diversity, it does not offer outstanding opportunities because of its small size.

Recreation: The unit offers some opportunities for camping, picnicking, and sightseeing, but they are limited by the small size, rocky nature, and dense vegetative cover of the island and are not outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values: No values known for unit, although it is supposed to be a good seal haul-out area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Victim Island appears natural, but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-22

Unit Name: Jap Island

Description

Size: About one acre.

Location: Approximately 200 feet south of the town of East Sound on Orcas Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a low, flat island with good grass cover and a few scattered shrubs.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Jap Island appears generally natural with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the extremely small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on the unit as a result of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Jap Island, while appearing generally natural, lacks any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-23

Unit Name: Freeman Island and Beach Haven Rock

Description

Size: Freeman Island is about two acres of public land leased to the State Parks. Beach Haven Rock is less than one-half acre in size.

Location: Freeman Island is within one-quarter mile of the northwest corner of Orcas Island, while Beach Haven Rock is within 100 feet.

Physical Characteristics: The island is a long, narrow, steep banked rock with grassy patches alternating with clumps of trees and brush. Access is not easy. Beach Haven Rock is a small, flat, unvegetated rock under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities on Beach Haven and limited opportunities on Freeman due to small size and lack of much vegetation.

Recreation: Freeman Island offers some opportunities for camping and sightseeing but they are not outstanding because of the unit's small size. Beach Haven Rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: No supplemental values evident. State Game Department states there is "probable" winter eagle use.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Unit appears generally natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-24

Unit Name: Little Patos

Description

Size: About 15 acres of public land.

Location: The unit is about 50 yards southwest of Patos Island in north San Juan County.

Physical Characteristics: Little Patos is heavily vegetated with good tree, grass, and brush growth over the entire island. The island is a flattened egg-shape with steep, rocky shorelines limiting access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: No imprints of man's work are noticeable; the unit appears natural.

Solitude: The island has good vegetational screening and topographic relief.

Recreation: Some camping and sightseeing opportunities exist but they are limited by the relatively small size, rocky nature, and dense vegetative cover of the island and are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The island has some wildlife value as a roosting area for eagles nesting on the larger adjacent island as well as high scenic values.

Proposed Decision: Designate a 15-acre wilderness study area.

Final Decision: Designate a 15-acre wilderness study area.

Rationale: Little Patos is natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Unit Number: 13-25

Unit Name: Ewing Rocks

Ewing Rocks were mistakenly included in the BLM wilderness review. They have already been designated wilderness as part of the San Juan Wilderness. They are included in the San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Unit Number: 13-26

Unit Name: Dinner Island Rocks

No rock was visible off north end of Dinner Island. Rocks on the south end have been designated Wilderness by the Fish and Wildlife Service due to their high wildlife values.

Unit Number: 13-27

Unit Name: King Islands

Description

Size: The unit consists of a group of rocks with a total area of just over one acre.

Location: The unit lies from 20 to 100 feet off the south shore of San Juan Island between Kanaka and False Bays.

Physical Characteristics: Three of the rocks are steep, rounded, unvegetated domes, while the fourth is a flat, grassy rock.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the islands' extremely small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on King Islands because of their small size.

Supplemental Values: State Game Department states that the rocks may have some minor wildlife values for bird roosting.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: King Islands appear generally natural, but offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-28

Unit Name: Kanaka Bay Islands

Description

Size: About 15 rocks make up the unit with a total area of about three acres.

Location: The rocks vary from 20 to 250 feet south of San Juan Island in Kanaka Bay adjacent to False Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The islands in the unit are small, low-lying, rocky islands with sparse grass as the only vegetation.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: No imprints of man's work are noticeable and the islands appear generally natural.

Solitude: Kanaka Bay Islands offer no opportunities for solitude because of their extremely small size, flat shape, and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: This unit offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size.

Supplemental Values: There may be some minor wildlife values for bird roosting according to the State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although substantially natural, the unit offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-29

Unit Name: Park Bay Island

Description

Size: About two acres of public land currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: About 50 feet from the western shore of Shaw Island at the mouth to Parks Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a gently sloped, rocky island with a good vegetational covering of fir, cedar, and madrone trees with mixed grasses and brush.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island itself is completely natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Minor opportunities are available due to the vegetation and topography but are not outstanding because of the small size.

Recreation: There could be some potential opportunities for camping and sightseeing, but they are limited by the small size of the unit and are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the unit is generally natural, it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-30

Unit Name: North Pass and McConnell Rocks

Description

Size: North Pass is less than one-half acre in size. McConnell Rocks is about two acres in size and is leased to the State Parks.

Location: McConnell Rocks is located about 200 feet northwest of McConnell Island and is attached at low tide. North Pass Rock is located on the north tip of Reef Island. The entire unit is situated between Shaw and Orcas Islands. A couple of Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands are within one-half mile.

Physical Characteristics: North Pass Rock is a low-lying bare rock under water at high tide. McConnell Rock is a long, thin, mostly flat island with a few fir, cedar, and madrone trees, good overall grass cover, and fairly good access.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both rocks appear generally natural with no apparent imprints of man's work.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its very small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetative screening.

Recreation: McConnell Rocks offers some limited opportunities for camping or sightseeing but they are not outstanding, because of its small size. North Pass Rock offers no opportunities because of its very small size.

Supplemental Values: Some minor wildlife use occurs according to State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: North Pass and McConnell Rocks are both natural appearing but do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-31

Unit Name: Broken Point Island

Description

Size: About one acre of public land.

Location: The unit is in a small bay immediately west of Broken Point on the north side of Shaw Island.

Physical Characteristics: The island is a small dome-shaped rock with steep banks, a few shrubby trees, and good grass cover.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Broken Point Island appears generally natural with no imprints of man's work.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its very small size, generally flat topography, and lack of good vegetational screening.

Recreation: Because of the very small size, rocky nature, and poor access, there are no real opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: The unit has some wildlife value as an eagle roost according to the State Game Department.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The island appears generally natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-32

Unit Name: Posey Island

Description

Size: About one acre, leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: The island is located about 100 yards north of Pearl Island and about one-half mile northwest of Roche Harbor on San Juan Island. The island lies within one-half mile of a Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, low-lying island with heavy brush, a few trees, and grass on the open area.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears generally natural except for a small cabin on the northwest side of the island which is substantially noticeable because of the island's small size.

Solitude: Posey Island offers no opportunities for solitude due to its flat topography and very small size.

Recreation: The unit offers some limited camping, day-use, and sightseeing opportunities and has some tables in place by the State Parks. However, it offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department states that the island has good wildlife values for seabird and harlequin duck use along with good kelp beds.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness reviews.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Posey Island does not appear natural and does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-33

Unit Name: Mitchell's Bay Rocks and Guss Island

Description

Size: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are three rocks totalling less than two acres in size. Guss Island was determined not to be administered by BLM and is therefore dropped from further consideration.

Location: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are located at the mouth of Mitchell Bay in the northwest area of San Juan Island.

Physical Characteristics: Mitchell's Bay Rocks are low-lying barren rockpiles.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The largest of the Mitchell Bay Rocks has a large sign on it to aid navigation in the bay. The remainder of the rocks appear generally natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on Mitchell Bay Rocks due to their extremely small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: Mitchell Bay Rocks offer no opportunities because of their extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: The unit has wildlife values for use as seabird roosting.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The rocks are generally natural but lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-34

Unit Name: Pudding Island

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 30 feet north of Satellite Island, which is just north of Stuart Island.

Physical Characteristics: Pudding Island is a steep banked, rounded rock with a little grass and two small shrubs on top. The unit has very difficult access and is connected to the larger Satellite Island at medium tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island has no imprints of man's work and appears generally natural.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude in the unit due to its extremely small size and lack of much vegetation.

Recreation: Pudding Island offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its very small size, rocky nature, and difficulty of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit is completely natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-35

Unit Name: John's Pass Rocks and Rock Island

Description

Size: Both the rock and the island are less than one acre in size.

Location: John's Pass Rocks are within 100 feet of Stuart Island in the channel between John's Island and Stuart. Rock Island is immediately to the north in a small bay about 200 feet off the north slope of Stuart Island.

Physical Characteristics: Both sets of rocks are bare, low-lying, with no vegetation and difficult access. The absence of vegetation indicates that they are probably under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with the only imprints being some pilings on the southern rock which is very noticeable because of the small size of the rock.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude due to the very small size and lack of any vegetation in the unit.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the very small size of the unit.

Supplemental Values: The unit would appear to have some wildlife values as a seabird roosting area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While John's Pass Rock and Rock Island appear generally natural, they offer no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-36

Unit Name: Prevost Harbor Rocks

Description

Size: The unit consists of three sets of rocks less than two acres total in size.

Location: The rocks lie in the east side of Prevost Harbor between Satellite and Stuart Islands.

Physical Characteristics: The three sets of rocks are all low, flat, unvegetated rocks with difficult access. Lack of vegetation indicates that they are probably under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears completely natural with no apparent imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Prevost Harbor Rocks offer no opportunities for solitude due to their extremely small size, flat topography, and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: The rocks offer no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their extremely small size and lack of good access.

Supplemental Values: There are some wildlife values on the unit as it appears to receive heavy seabird roosting.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The rocks appear generally natural but do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-37

Unit Name: Reid Harbor Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 75 feet off the east shore of Stuart Island in the southeast section of Reid Harbor.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a small, rounded, unvegetated rock connected to shore at low tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man on the rock and it appears generally natural.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist on the rock due to its extremely small size, lack of vegetation, and generally flat shape.

Recreation: Reid Harbor Rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although the unit appears natural, it lacks solitude and offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-38

Unit Name: John's Island Rock

Description

Size: Less than one-half acre.

Location: About 100 feet off the southeastern tip of John's Island. Two Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness islands lie within one-half mile.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a very steep banked rock with no vegetation, poor access, and measures approximately 5 by 15 feet on op.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: There are no imprints of man's work on the rock and it appears completely natural.

Solitude: The unit offers no opportunities for solitude due to its small size and lack of vegetation.

Recreation: The rock offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its extremely small size.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: John's Island Rock appears natural but offers no opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-39

Unit Name: Reservation Bay Rocks

Description

Size: Two groups of rocks less than one acre total.

Location: The rocks are within 100 yards of Fidalgo Island and Deception Pass State Park in the northwest corner of Reservation Bay.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is made up of two rounded, tall, unvegetated rockpiles with difficult access. Most of the unit is under water at high tide.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears completely natural with no imprints of man's work noticeable.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on the rocks due to their extremely small size and complete lack of vegetation.

Recreation: Reservation Bay Rocks have no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their extremely small size and difficult of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The unit appears natural with no imprints of man but lacks opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-40

Unit Name: Deadman and Little Deadman Islands

Description

Size: Deadman is less than five acres of public land; Little Deadman is about one acre in size.

Location: About one-quarter mile west of Fidalgo Island; two miles west of LaConner in Skagit Bay.

Physical Characteristics: Little Deadman is a small, rocky, steep-banked island with fairly heavy grass and shrub cover, including a few shrubby trees. Deadman Island is a rough tear-drop shape with heavy vegetational growth, including several large trees.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: A small cabin exists on the north shore of Deadman Island, but is not substantially noticeable because of heavy vegetation. The remainder of the island and Little Deadman appear natural.

Solitude: No opportunities exist on Little Deadman due to its very small size and lack of vegetational screening. Deadman Island has good vegetational screening and some very minor topographic relief but offers only limited opportunities due to the small size.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for camping or sightseeing but they are not outstanding because of the unit's small size and location.

Supplemental Values: Deadman and Little Deadman Islands would appear to have some good wildlife potential but none was apparent. No other values are known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The islands appear generally natural but lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-41

Unit Name: Narrow Rocks

Description

Size: Each of the rocks in the unit is about one acre each.

Location: The northern rock is within 200 feet and the southern within 500 feet of the south tip of Fidalgo Island in the Skagit Delta just west of LaConner. The unit lies about one mile south of Deadman and Little Deadman Islands.

Physical Characteristics: Both of the Narrow Rocks are fairly tall, dome-shaped rocks with the northern rock having a sloping top and mostly grass cover with a couple of shrubs. The southern rock has very steep banks all around it with a flat-top and a few more shrubs. Access would be very difficult.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Both rocks appear generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude in the unit due to the very small size, flat shape, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The unit offers no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of their very small size and lack of access.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Narrow Rocks appear natural with no imprints of man but do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-44

Unit Name: Rockport Island

Description

Size: Approximately 20 acres.

Location: On the north side of the Skagit River at the confluence with the Sauk River, about one-half mile west from the town of Rockport.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, elongated island with steep banks and poor access on the south shore and shallow gravel bars on the north. Vegetation consists of very dense alder, willow, and cottonwood, being nearly impenetrable in places.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Rockport Island appears completely natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Although the unit has excellent vegetative screening, opportunities for solitude are limited by the narrowness and small size of the island and are not outstanding.

Recreation: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the small size, the dense vegetation, location, and poor access to the island. With a State Park within one-half mile to the northwest, and a County Park one-half mile to the east, the unit provides no additional opportunities and shows no evidence of use.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department reports that Rockport Island provides important winter eagle feeding and roosting areas, plus a fish spawning area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Ten comments were received referring to Rockport Island specifically or to the Skagit Islands in general. They all oppose the proposed decision and suggest that the island (or islands) be a WSA in order to protect wildlife values. Several comments suggest that the island (islands) should be a WSA because it is in a designated wild and scenic river.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Rockport Island appears natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The wildlife values of the islands are known and referred to under supplemental values. Supplemental values alone do not qualify a unit as a WSA. The BLM islands in the Skagit River lie in those parts of the river designated "recreational" which is the least restrictive category in the Wild and Scenic River process. A Wild and Scenic designation of any type does not alone qualify an island for wilderness study.

Unit Number: 13-50

Unit Name: Clallam County Islands

Description

Size: Nine groups of rocks comprising about 20 acres of public land. Tatoosh, under Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1877, and Waadah Island, under Executive Orders 3949 of January 28, 1924, and 4206 of April 18, 1925, were both withdrawn for lighthouse purposes and are under jurisdiction of the Coast Guard. They, therefore, do not qualify to be included in the wilderness review process and are not considered during the intensive inventory.

Location: The rocks in the unit lie along the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula, stretching from an area four miles out of Neah Bay, westerly to the area around Cape Flattery. Almost all of the rocks are within 200 feet of shore, with a couple out to one-quarter mile from shore.

Physical Characteristics: The rocks in this unit come in an assorted jumble of sizes and shapes from flat and wide to tall and narrow rocks. Seal and Sail Rocks, two rocks near Tatoosh Island, and two rocks off Cape Flattery have some grass and moss for vegetation. The others are all bare.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The islands in the unit appear completely natural with no imprints of man's work apparent.

Solitude: No opportunities for solitude exist on the rocks in the unit, due to their extremely small size and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: There are no opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit because of the extremely small size of the rocks and difficulty of access.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department has identified the Clallam County Islands as having critical values for wildlife.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: While the rocks in the unit appear generally natural, they do not offer any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-59

Unit Name: Indian Island

Description

Size: Less than two acres.

Location: The unit is located in the northeast corner of Silver Lake, five miles east of the town of Castle Rock.

Physical Characteristics: Indian Island is a flat, marshy area within the lake, having three fir trees and a mixture of very heavy brush and deciduous tree species on the island. At lower water levels the main island is attached to a long narrow band of reeds and brush known locally as Reed Island.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Indian Island appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited by the very small size of the island and are not outstanding.

Recreation: The only foreseeable use of the island, because of the nature and location of the unit, would be for duck hunting. No outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment referring specifically to this unit was received. Other comments referring to islands in general may have been intended to apply to this island. Refer to the general summary of public comments on islands at the beginning of the Spokane District section. The one specific comment opposes the proposed decision and requests that the island be a WSA in order to protect wildlife values.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Indian Island appears natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-60

Unit Name: Prindle Island

Description

Size: 185 acres of public land administered under a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Game Department.

Location: About 30 miles east of Portland in the Columbia River, immediately to the north of Multnomah Falls State Park.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a long, narrow, flat island with a heavy growth of cottonwood trees and stinging nettles making up the majority of the vegetation. The entire shoreline is very steep and has few good areas for access. The upstream tip of the island also shows some evidence of bad erosion.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Prindle Island appears generally natural with no substantial imprints of man. There are numerous significant outside intrusions, including heavy barge traffic on the river adjacent to the island, Interstate 80, and Multnomah Falls State Park on the south shore of the river, and State Route 14 and Burlington Northern Railroad on the north shore.

Solitude: Opportunities in the unit are good but far from outstanding. There is good vegetational screening over most of the island, but its long, flat, narrow shape destroys any feeling of isolation from others.

Recreation: Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are very limited on the island due to the poor access, density of stinging nettles on the unit, and the location. Opportunities would include sightseeing for the scenic and wildlife values of the unit and sturgeon fishing in the river. No evidence of past use is apparent. Two State Parks are close by and receive heavy use.

Supplemental Values: The island has good wildlife values as a nesting area for Canadian geese and probable eagle use sites.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: One comment referring specifically to this unit was received. Other comments referring to islands in general may have been intended to apply to this island. Refer to the general summary of public comments on islands at the beginning of the Spokane District section. The one specific comment opposes the proposed decision and requests that the island be a WSA in order to protect wildlife values.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Prindle Island appears generally natural but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-62

Unit Name: Lawrence Lake Island

Introduction: In the report of the Final Decisions on the Initial Inventory (August 1979) this unit was mistakenly listed as eliminated from further wilderness review. It has been intensively inventoried.

Description

Size: About one acre.

Location: The island is located in the southeast corner of Lawrence Lake, about 20 miles southeast of Olympia.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a very small, flat, marshy island with very heavy vegetational cover. Access is fairly good, as well as having a good location in the least developed portion of the lake.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The island appears generally natural with no noticeable imprints of man's work.

Solitude: Lawrence Lake Island does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its extremely small size.

Recreation: The unit offers no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size and marshy state. Heavy fishing use does occur nearby off the shore of the lake and from a State-owned boat launching area about one-quarter mile to the west, but no activity seems to occur around the island itself.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department states that the island serves as an eagle roost and is a valuable wildlife habitat area.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two oppose the proposed decision and request that the island be a WSA because of its wildlife values. The third comment does not refer specifically to the proposed decision, but it requests that use of the island be limited because of wildlife values.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Although appearing generally natural, Lawrence Lake Island does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-63

Unit Name: Eagle Island

Description

Size: Ten acres of public land currently leased to Washington State Parks.

Location: About one-quarter mile north of private lands on Anderson Island and three-quarters mile south of McNeil Island.

Physical Characteristics: The unit is a flat, oval-shaped island with heavy tree and shrub vegetation. A very steep shoreline limits the access somewhat, with dense vegetation limiting usage to a very small area on the south tip of the island.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: Eagle Island as a whole appears generally natural with the only imprints of man's work being a Coast Guard navigational marker on the north end of the island and some man-made openings on the south end for camp sites. The imprints are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are good because of the heavy vegetational screening but they are not outstanding, due to its relatively small size.

Recreation: The unit offers limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the small size, location, and dense vegetation limiting the useable area to a small area on the southern tip of the island. There are some opportunities for swimming, two or three person camping, and day use activities, but they are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The Washington State Game Department states that the island is a valuable wildlife habitat area providing eagle roost for nearby nests.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Two comments were received. They oppose the proposed decision and request that the island be a WSA because of its wildlife values.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: Eagle Island appears generally natural but does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Also see general summary response.

Unit Number: 13-67

Unit Name: Columbia River Islands

Description

Size: Four islands totalling approximately 270 acres. Eleven islands were removed from consideration due to their being withdrawn for the McNary Dam project under Public Land Order 606 of April 24, 1943.

Location: The islands are located in the Columbia River adjacent to the Hanford Atomic Works, ranging from 20 to 30 miles north of Richland.

Physical Characteristics: All four of the islands are long, narrow bodies of very low topography with mostly grass for vegetation. The two northernmost islands have some sparse rabbitbrush.

Wilderness Criteria

Naturalness: The unit appears generally natural with no significant imprints of man's work.

Solitude: There are no opportunities for solitude on any of the islands due to their narrowness, size, flat topography, and lack of vegetational screening.

Recreation: The islands offer some opportunities for water-based recreation activities. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited because of the islands' size, lack of much vegetation, and location, and cannot be considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values: The State Game Department has stated that the unit is extremely valuable for wildlife habitat.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Sixteen comments were received, and they all oppose the proposed decision. It is suggested that the islands are important to recreational activities on the river. Several of the comments mention that these islands are in the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia. This and wildlife values are suggested as reasons for identifying the island as a WSA.

Final Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Rationale: The Columbia River Islands appear generally natural but do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The highest value of these islands lie in their wildlife values with recreation a secondary concern. However, wildlife values and the "free flowing" nature of the river do not alone qualify these islands as a WSA.

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS

Reason for Wilderness Review

When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976, it required the Secretary of the Interior to review roadless areas and islands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and to identify those which have wilderness characteristics. The Secretary is to report to the President his recommendations regarding the suitability of the areas and islands for preservation as wilderness. The President, in turn, is to submit his recommendations to Congress.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN ESTABLISH A WILDERNESS AREA.

The Three Phases of the Review Process

The wilderness review process has three phases: inventory, study and submission of a report to Congress.

1. Inventory. First, the public lands will be inventoried to identify areas that meet Congress' definition of wilderness. Such areas will be designated wilderness study areas (WSAs).

WE HAVE NOW COMPLETED THIS PHASE.

BLM published a wilderness inventory handbook in September 1978. It contains policies, procedures, and guidelines on how the inventory is to be carried out. The handbook may be obtained from any BLM office.

The inventory phase includes two steps.

a. Initial Inventory. The purpose of this step was to identify lands which clearly do not have wilderness characteristics and to eliminate them from further wilderness review.

The State Director's proposed decision on the initial inventory in Oregon and Washington was announced in April, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed.

The final decision on the initial inventory was announced in August, 1979. Approximately 5.4 million acres in Oregon and over 296,000 acres in Washington were eliminated from further wilderness review.

b. Intensive Inventory. All inventory units not eliminated from wilderness review in the initial inventory have been intensively inventoried. This includes field investigations of the areas. The purpose of this step is to determine which areas should be eliminated from further review and which should be designated as wilderness study areas.

The intensive inventory of lands in Oregon and Washington has been carried out in two stages. The first stage dealt with 30 inventory units in southeast Oregon. Proposed decisions on which of those units should be identified as wilderness study areas were announced in October 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed. Final decisions were announced in March 1980.

The second stage includes all of the other units in Oregon and Washington which were designated for intensive inventory in the August 1979 report. Proposed decisions on these units were announced in March 1980. A 90-day public comment period ran through June 25, 1980.

THIS REPORT ANNOUNCES THE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE INTENSIVE INVENTORY OF ALL OF THE OTHER INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

For reasons explained in the report and in Appendix B, the final decisions for 3 units in the Vale District have been deferred.

2. Study. The BLM land-use planning system will be used to analyze all values, resources, and uses within the wilderness study areas. The benefits of designating the areas as wilderness will be compared with the benefits of using the land for other purposes. The public will be asked to participate in the studies. The results of the studies will determine whether the areas are recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

Guidelines for wilderness studies are currently being developed in BLM's Washington Office, and a draft is scheduled to be released this fall. A schedule for the studies of the wilderness study areas in Oregon and Washington will be developed later this year.

3. Reporting. When a study is completed, recommendations as to whether the wilderness study areas are suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness will be submitted to Congress.

Wilderness Characteristics

Congress directed BLM to use the wilderness definition found in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to determine which roadless areas and islands have wilderness characteristics. On the basis of that definition, an area or island must have the following characteristics to qualify as a wilderness study area:

1. Be a roadless area with over 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands, or be a roadless island of public land of any size. State or private lands which are surrounded by public lands are not included in making the acreage determination. There are three circumstances where roadless areas with less than 5,000 acres may qualify as wilderness study areas. They are:

a. The BLM lands are contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values, or

b. The public has indicated strong support for study of a particular area of less than 5,000 acres and it is demonstrated that it is clearly and obviously of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management, or

c. They are contiguous with an area of less than 5,000 acres of other Federal lands administered by an agency with authority to study and preserve wilderness lands, and the combined total is 5,000 acres or more.

2. Be an area where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

3. Offer either:

a. An outstanding opportunity for solitude, or
b. An outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

A wilderness area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These "supplemental values" enhance the wilderness potential of an area, but they are not necessary features of a wilderness study area and they cannot qualify an area as a WSA if the area does not satisfy the three requirements of size, naturalness and outstanding opportunity.

Roadless Areas

For purposes of BLM's wilderness review, the definition of "roadless" is taken directly from the legislative history of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (House Report 94-1163, May 15, 1976, page 17):

> The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

Words and phrases in the definition are further defined in BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook:

> "Improved and maintained"-- Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
>
> "Mechanical means"-- Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
>
> "Relatively regular and continuous use"-- Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintain recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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APPENDIX B

DESCRIPTIONS OF UNITS FOR WHICH DECISIONS HAVE BEEN DEFERRED

The decisions on three inventory units in the Vale District have been deferred. They are all interstate units contiguous with public lands in Idaho for which intensive inventory decisions have not been announced. The inventory of the contiguous lands in Idaho has been delayed pending resolution of an appeal of initial inventory decisions. The three units are described below.

Proposed decisions for the three units were announced in March 1980. However, final decisions will not be made until the Idaho appeal is resolved and the intensive inventory proceeds. When the Idaho State Director announces proposed intensive inventory decisions for the contiguous lands in Idaho, the Oregon State Office will reopen the public comment period on the three Oregon units. Final decisions will be announced concurrently by the two states, and Nevada in the case of Unit 3-159.

Unit Number: 3-159/ID-106-70E/NV-020-811

Unit Name: Tent Creek

Note: This unit is contiguous with Idaho Inventory Unit ID-106-70E and Nevada Unit NV-020-811.

Description

Size: The unit's total acreage is 46,520 acres. The portion in Oregon contains 32,440 acres, including 2,200 acres of State land in the process of being acquired. The portion of the unit in Idaho (ID-106-70E) contains 3,400 acres of public land. The portion in Nevada (NV-020-811) contains 10,680 acres of public land. There are 400 acres of private inholdings in the Nevada portion of the unit.

Location: At the common corner of Oregon, Idaho and Nevada.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by roads except for a small private parcel in the southwest.

Physical Characteristics: The topography consists of flat to gently rolling tablelands. Oregon and Mahogany Buttes, Tent and Mahogany Creeks provide the only noticeable diversity of relief. The vegetation consists of sagebrush and native grasses.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The unit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: The unit contains a total of approximately eight miles of ways, 19 miles of bladed fence line and three miles of bladed Oregon/Idaho stateline. All of these intrusions are substantially unnoticeable because the sagebrush screens them on the relatively flat terrain. There is also one reservoir in the unit which is substantially unnoticeable due to its small size. The unit appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of the absence of vegetative screening and topographic diversity. Tent Creek and Mahogany Creek provide only limited locations for seclusion. The unit's moderate size would provide some opportunities for solitude. However, the unit's elongated shape (the maximum distance from the perimeter to the core is two and one-half miles) would make it difficult to avoid the presence of others.

Recreation: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because the unit's homogeneous topography and vegetation do not provide significant points of interest.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Three comments were received. Two concur with the proposed decision and one opposes it. The latter comment requests a re-evaluation of the opportunities for solitude and suggests that they are outstanding.

Final Decision: A final decision will not be issued on this unit until an appeal on a contiguous unit in Idaho is resolved.

Unit Number: 3-194/ID-106-48A

Unit Name: Lookout Butte

Subunits: A road was identified in the southwest corner, creating Subunits 3-194A and 3-194B. Subunit B contains 480 acres. It does not meet any of the minimum size criteria and is not described below.

Subunit Number: 3-194A

Description

Size: The subunit contains 104,360 acres, including 1,580 acres of State land in Oregon in the process of being acquired. There are 65,160 acres of public land in Oregon and 39,200 acres of public land in Idaho. Three parcels of State land totaling 1,920 acres in Idaho are not included in the inventory. There is no private property in the unit.

Location: The unit is located in the corner of Idaho and Oregon south of the South Fork of the Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The unit is bounded by BLM roads except for a small section of private property along the southeast boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The subunit is basically a large sagebrush flat. It contains several playas and four low, gently sloped buttes. Defeat Butte (5,710 ft.) is in the center of the unit. Lookout Butte is two miles west of Defeat Butte. Two more low buttes, one of which is Spring Butte are located in the northeast corner. South of Lookout Butte is Lookout Lake, the largest playa in the unit. In the southwest corner, Tent Creek forms a small canyon that dissipates and then reappears in a twisting configuration in the southeast corner. Spring Creek crosses the center of the eastern boundary through a shallow draw. Midway along the west boundary, a low rim extends east from Stoney Corral. It is located along the headwaters of Toppin Creek. Defeat and Lookout Buttes are the only prominent features.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Intrusions in the subunit include 22 reservoirs, approximately 66 miles of ways and approximately 20 miles of bladed fenceline. Due to the absence of any substantial screening, the high number of developments, and their distribution throughout the unit, their cumulative impact is substantially noticeable.

Solitude: There is virtually no vegetative screening throughout this subunit. There is no topographic screening except in an occasional shallow draw. The subunit is roughly triangular in shape. This shape and the large size offer some opportunities for solitude. However, due to the absence of vegetative or topographic screening the opportunities are not outstanding.

Recreation: There are opportunities in this unit for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and photography. The hiking and riding activities are limited to an uneventful passage through sagebrush, with no particular destination point or attractive sites. There are no unique photographic opportunities in this unit. The hunting opportunity is limited. For these reasons, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined activities are not outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments: Twenty comments were received. One concurs with the proposed decision and the remainder oppose it. Eight of the opposing comments do not provide any information to support their position. Five of the comments argue that the large size of the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Five of them also mention that the opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding, mentioning river floating, hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and photography. Supplemental values of canyon scenery, archaeological sites and wildlife are also mentioned. One comment suggests that combining the unit with many other units in the Owyhee Basin would result in unquestionably outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Final Decision: A final decision will not be issued on this unit until an appeal on a contiguous unit in Idaho is resolved.

Unit Number: 3-195/ID-106-48B

Unit Name: Owyhee Canyon (This unit was formerly referred to as Louse Canyon.)

Revision of Unit Boundaries: In the March 1980 report the unit was described as containing 162,550 acres of public land; 128,840 in Oregon and 33,710 in Idaho. During a re-evaluation in the field following the close of the public comment period, it was determined that the boundary between Units 3-143 and 3-195 is a way and not a road. Lands formerly in Unit 3-143 are now included in Unit 3-195. The unit now includes 215,800 acres; 182,090 in Oregon and 33,710 in Idaho.

Subunits: During the intensive inventory roads and private property were identified that divided the area of former Unit 3-143 into five subunits. Subunits B (1,200 acres), C (680 acres), D (300 acres), and E (20 acres) do not meet any of the minimum size criteria and are not described below. Subunit 3-195 A now included all the lands formerly in Subunit 3-143 A and in Unit 3-195.

Subunit Number: 3-195A/ID-106-48B

Description

Size: The subunit contains 213,600 acres of public land. This includes 179,890 acres in Oregon and 33,710 acres in Idaho. There are 680 acres of State land near Anderson Crossing which are presently in the process of being acquired. Along the South Fork of the Owyhee at Bald Mountain Canyon and Duke's Creek, there are two State sections totalling 1,280 acres. There are three 40-acre private inholdings along Louse Canyon, near Anderson Crossing. The two State sections on the South Fork and the private lands are not included in the inventory.

Location: The subunit is located along the Owyhee River, from a few miles south of Rome to Three Forks, and along and to the south of the South Fork of the Owyhee from Three Forks into Idaho to the junction of the Little Owyhee River.

Boundaries: The north end of the subunit is bounded by private property and roads. The northeast boundaries are a combination of BLM roads and State and private land. From Long Canyon Reservoir to Three Forks the boundary is a county road. South of there the boundary is private and State land. Private land forms the boundary in Antelope Canyon. The remainder of the subunit is bounded by BLM roads. In the Mud Flat area, across from Rim Rock Reservoir, a short dead-end road runs in to a scenic overlook. Two other roads in Oregon extend into the unit for approximately 18 miles and dead-end at reservoirs. Four roads in Idaho enter the unit for approximately five miles and dead-end at reservoirs or the canyon rim.

Physical Characteristics: The long, narrow, northern arm of the subunit contains about 40-45 miles of the Owyhee River and its canyon. The canyon contains 1300-foot walls, breaks, and rims. Antelope Creek, a major side canyon, enters the Owyhee near the base of the northern arm. Antelope Creek is fed by Twin Springs Gorge. Additional tributary canyons along the Owyhee include Warm Springs Canyon, Long Canyon, and Indian Canyon.

The river has numerous rapids, ranging from class two through six, which slice through vertical canyon walls. The walls are a pinkish-brown rhyolite; they include tall pinnacles and chimneys. The floor of the canyon varies from wide, sandy bars to narrow, wall-to-wall rock-strewn rapids. In this portion of the subunit there are sagebrush flats above the rim, except around Antelope Creek where there are rolling hills and drainages.

In the portion of the subunit south of the South Fork and into Idaho there are two types of terrain, a high-elevation plateau and deep canyons. The plateau consists of sagebrush flats, playas, and an occasional gently sloped hill or butte. The plateau is located in the center of the area. The west and east boundaries are along two major canyons. The canyons come together at Five Bar. This is the confluence of the West Little Owyhee River and the South Fork of the Owyhee River. The confluence of Toppin Creek and West Little Owyhee River is nearby. Toppin Creek Canyon extends into the central portion of the area. Other smaller canyons include Bald Mountain Canyon, Duke's Creek Canyon, Dry Canyon, and Spring Creek Canyon. The canyons are up to 1,300 deep, with steep or sheer walls allowing only occasional access. The South Fork of the Owyhee River contains white water rapids during the spring and early summer. There are low, rolling hills in two areas above the canyon rim, along the South Fork in the Idaho portion and around Stoney Corral midway along the southwest boundary in Oregon.

The vegetation is sagebrush and bunchgrass, with occasional junipers in the canyons.

Wilderness Criteria

Size: The subunit meets the minimum size criteria.

Naturalness: Five reservoirs are spaced evenly above the length of the southern rim of Antelope Creek. A sixth is midway along the north side. All are substantially unnoticeable because they are in shallow draws below the level of the sagebrush flats surrounding them (four are near the edge of the rim) and therefore out of sight.

Hansen Canyon, Juniper Lake, and Porcupine Reservoirs are located along the western boundary above the rim and south of Loveland Horse Camp. A fourth reservoir is located in the camp. The three are substantially unnoticeable because they have shallow dams in shallow drainages (the Hansen Canyon reservoir is below rimrock) and are effectively hidden from view across the sagebrush flats. The reservoir at the camp is noticeable because it is close to the boundary and the cabin, fences, ways, and corrals in and around the camp. The cumulative impact of the developments at the is substantially noticeable.

Two old range improvement projects are located between Three Forks and Indian Canyon. The 1964 Indian Canyon brush control and seeding and the 1961 Whitehorse brush control were aerial applications. Both are substantially unnoticeable because the projects were only marginally effective.

Three reservoirs in Long Canyon and the plateau to the south are substantially noticeable because of their proximity to the boundary and to each other. Just to the south, along the boundary road that descends to Three Forks, a cabin and the adjacent corrals and parking areas are substantially noticeable.

An old mine is located at the mouth of Long Canyon. It is off the edge of the rim, not far from the river. It is substantially unnoticeable because it is in disrepair and vegetation is growing on it. The old tailings pile is situated such that it appears to be a talus slope.

Two old shelters are located about two miles down the river. They are substantially unnoticeable because of they are small and constructed of natural materials.

Three reservoirs are located within a mile of each other in Indian Canyon. Access ways lead to the reservoirs and a fence passes among them. The cumulative effect of the developments in the 760-acre area is substantially noticeable because of their number, proximity, and location along a wall of rimrock.

A fourth reservoir is located another mile north. It is adjacent to the rim, away from the boundary, and in a shallow draw. It is hidden from view across the adjacent flats and substantially unnoticeable.

Dairy Pasture and Eiguiren Reservoirs are located across the river. Dairy Pasture is halfway between the boundary road and the rim, hidden from the boundary by low hills. It is substantially unnoticeable. Eiguren Reservoir is adjacent to the west boundary in a basin. It is substantially noticeable.

Two reservoirs, both known as the Skull Creek Rim Reservoirs, three miles to the north along the west boundary. Scott's Reservoir is located two miles north of them. All three are adjacent to the boundary. The Skull Creek Reservoirs are connected by a series of ways. All three are substantially noticeable within a 120-acre area because of the cumulative effects of the numerous ways and the reservoirs' proximity to the boundary and each other.

Three other reservoirs are located along the west side of the river. They are small, are closer to the rim than the boundary, separated from each other, and are in shallow draws. They are substantially unnoticeable.

A reservoir and an access way are located along the state land that forms the northeast boundary. Because it is close to the boundary, the visibility of the access way, and the relative flatness of the terrain, it is substantially noticeable.

A pipeline and accompanying construction-maintenance ways, a fence, a reservoir, a water tower, and the 1967 Field Fire brush control and seeding project are located further north. The cumulative effect of the developments in this 1,100-acre area is substantially noticeable because of the contrast in the vegetation in the various pastures, the undulating terrain which brings ways into view, and the obvious marks left from the construction of the pipeline.

The abandoned Scott's Ranch is located at the north end of the subunit. It contains a reservoir, corral, cabin, and fences. Several ways are located adjacent to it. One descends to Scott's Diversion Dam. This dam is lined with rip-rap. It backs up the river to fill a diversion ditch. The ditch, and a way on its bank, parallel the river. The developments are located in a 260-acre area adjacent to the boundary. They are substantially noticeable.

Twenty-two miles of fence extend through the unit. The longest stretches for six miles. Most are substantially unnoticeable because of their short lengths, the distances sepaparting them, and, in some cases, construction of native materials and screening by tall sage. An exception is the fenceline along the northeast boundary. A brush control and seeding project on one side creates a noticeable pasture contrast.

The area contains approximately 65 miles of ways. The longest is about eight miles. Most of the others are short, extending from the boundary to the rim along the river. The substantially noticeable ways were mentioned earlier. The remainder are hidden by sage in the flat terrain or are located in shallow drainages along the creekbeds. They are substantially unnoticeable.

The southern portion of the subunit contains thirty-five water developments. Most are either small pits or reservoirs and all are above the rims. The largest group is around the Toppin Creek drainage in the central plateau. Six are above the rim of the South Fork, and the rest are strung out evenly along the east side of Louse Canyon. The reservoirs in the Toppin Creek drainage are in low hills. Since these reservoirs are small, they are screened by the topography. Those along the rims are also screened because they are located in shallow draws. Several reservoirs, such as those at the extreme top of the Toppin Creek drainage and those in the southeast corner of the unit are pits dug into natural playas. The tailings from these pits appear to be small sand dunes from a distance.

There are four fencelines in the area. A small fence enters the subunit from the northeast boundary, near Crotcher's Crossing. It is one mile long, cutting off a tabletop ridge that juts out like a peninsula into the canyon. Because of its short length and location, it remains substantially unnoticeable. The three other fences cross the central plateau from east to west, forming grazing allotment boundaries. They were bladed during construction. These blade scars are visible only from high points or when one is directly upon them. They are substantially unnoticeable because there are few high points and the fences are several miles apart.

Approximately 105 miles of ways are scattered over the area. The ways are separated by considerable distances, and someone hiking across this portion of the subunit would see few of them. They are also shielded from view on the relatively flat terrain by the sagebrush. One cannot see the ways unless directly upon them or looking down their length. They are substantially unnoticeable.

The subunit as a whole appears to be generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: Five portions of this subunit do not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The northern tip of the unit below Scott's Diversion Dam is only one-half to one-quarter mile wide. The river flows through the tip. The developments mentioned in the Naturalness section are located in low rolling hills on one side of the river. The other side is a sheer wall with the boundary road immediately at its top. The area contains 560 acres, including the 260 acres of substantially noticeable developments mentioned earlier.

North of Soldier Creek, the State land and road boundary form a 1,840-acre narrow neck in open, flat, terrain. The widest part of this area is one mile.

The 760-acre area around Indian Creek was mentioned earlier. The road boundary lies near the base of the Indian Canyon rim. The reservoirs and ways are at the foot of the rim. A small sage flat dips down to the creek between the road boundary and the developments. The area is entirely open and exposed.

Further south is Long Canyon, with a rim on the south side. A 1,560-acre flat lies above the rim and is encircled by the subunit boundary. It is one and one-half mile across. There is no topographic or vegetative screening.

The fifth portion lacking solitude is at the southwest corner above Antelope Corrals. Here the subunit boundary forms a small, 340-acre point that is one mile across at its base and a mile in length. It is an open, exposed sage flat that offers no opportunity to avoid the sight of others.

The remainder of the subunit offers nearly unlimited outstanding opportunities for solitude. The subunit's large size greatly contributes to the opportunity for a visitor to avoid others. Topographic screening is unlimited in and along the canyons. Out on the flats in the southern portion of the subunit, the sheer vastness of the area allows one to find solitude. There are over 150 miles of canyons with walls up to 1,300 feet high. The Owyhee River Canyon is from one to four miles wide and is accessible in many places only by raft or rock climbing. The opportunities for solitude in this subunit are diverse and outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offers many opportunities for recreational activities. Some of the more outstanding opportunities include river running, backpacking, photography, fishing, hiking, small cave spelunking, hunting, exploring, rock climbing,and sightseeing. Exploring the length of the canyon is challenging for people on foot or in boats. There are unlimited sites to photograph along the canyon. Subjects include whitewater, geologic formations, wildlife, and scenic vistas. The walls of the canyon offer an occasional cave to explore. The whitewater in the South Fork offers excellent sport for the rafter or kayaker. The Owyhee offers an outstanding rafting experience because of the spectacular scenery and great challenge. There are game fish in the river. Hunting for chukar, waterfowl or a trophy buck provide challenging experiences. Once out on the sagebrush flats, unimpeded hiking, horseback riding, snow shoeing, and Nordic skiing, can be experienced for many miles. Crossing the plateau would probably take two days on foot.

The five areas lacking solitude also do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The southern four are open, small sage flats that offer no attractive sites and are too small to offer unconfined recreation. There is no degree of challenge. The northernmost tip of the unit is a tall rim wall on one side of the river and a developed, low riverbank on the other. There are no outstanding opportunities in this portion.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding because of the diversity, challenge and uniqueness of the potential activities.

Supplemental Values: The area is known for its scenic quality. There are spectacular views within the canyon's walls. From the plateau above one can view the Owyhee Range, the Santa Rosas, and the Trout Creeks. The area is a classroom for the study of canyon ecosystems, the region's geologic past, and the effects of erosion. There are prehistoric and historic archeological sites. Zoological values include excellent raptor habitat, river otter, potential bighorn sheep habitat, and chukar, deer, fish, and waterfowl.

Proposed Decision: The proposed decision in March 1980 for the area formerly called Subunit 3-143 was to designate a 44,760-acre wilderness study area and to eliminate 6,290 acres from further wilderness review because they lack wilderness characteristics. The proposed decision for Unit 3-195 in March 1980 was to designate a 162,550-acre wilderness study area with 128,840 acres in Oregon and 33,710 acres in Idaho.

Summary of Public Comments: Since proposed decisions were announced for two separate units which are now combined, the public comments refer to the separate units. The comments are summarized below as they were received, for the two former units.

Thirty comments were received in response to the proposed decision concerning the area formerly called Unit 3-143. Seventeen of the comments concur with the proposed decision. One of the seventeen suggests that all of Subunit 3-143A be included in the WSA. Another suggests that it be combined with Unit 3-148. One comment discusses supplemental values without reference to the proposed decison. One comment provides study phase information that does not pertain to the inventory decision. Another comment suggests that there are wilderness values in the canyon area only. One supports the decision to eliminate portions of the area from futher wilderness review, but makes no reference to the proposed WSA. Nine comments oppose the proposed decision. Two argue that the subunit lacks naturalness because of substantially noticeable reservoirs. Four of the comments identify possible roads within the unit. Fences, reservoirs, and sprayed areas are also mentioned as distractions from naturalness. Several of these comments argue that opportunities for solitude are limited by the shape of the unit and because the road and traffic on it are visible from most of the unit.

Twenty-seven comments were received in response to the proposed decision concerning Unit 3-195 with its former boundaries. Twenty concur with the proposed decision. One comment argues that there are wilderness values in the canyons only. One comment provides information about possible roads within the unit, but does not refer specifically to the proposed decision.

Five comments are opposed to the proposed decision. Two argue that the reservoirs within the unit detract substantially from its naturalness. One states that there are approximately 40 miles of maintained roads within the unit, and it and two other comments mention a highly visible water tower, fences, reservoirs, dams, old cabins and other factors which detract from naturalness. They argue that opportunities for solitude are limited to the canyons and are affected by low flying aircraft. One mentions that there would not be opportunities for snowshoeing or skiing except in the most unusual winters.

Final Decision: A final decision will not be issued on this unit until an appeal on a contiguous unit in Idaho is resolved.

APPENDIX C

DEFINITIONS

The following terms are used frequently in the wilderness review in Oregon and Washington. The Wilderness Inventory Handbook also contains a glossary of terms used in the wilderness review.

Contiguous Lands: Legal subdivisions of land having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review.

Inholdings: All non-Federal lands, including State, county, or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Inventory Unit: Areas of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. THE UNITS MAY OR MAY NOT BE ROADLESS. An official file for each unit is maintained in the BLM district offices and is available for public review. A duplicate of the inventory case file narrative also is available for public review in the State Office in Portland.

O&C Lands: Public lands in western Oregon administered by BLM. They were granted to the Oregon and California Railroad but reverted to the Federal Government when the railroad defaulted on terms of the grant. Most of the lands are forested, and those capable of being managed for commercial timber production on a sustained yield basis are exempted by law from the wilderness review.

Public Lands: As used in the BLM wilderness review, the term refers to any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

--lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
--lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
--lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private

Only public land is being inventoried for wilderness purposes.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, or other land ownership.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Opportunities for solitude are evaluated by examining factors which enable a visitor in an area to avoid the sights and sounds of other users in the area. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are an area's size, shape, vegetative screening, and topographic relief. Opportunities for solitude are not evaluated on the basis of an area's remoteness from human habitation.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

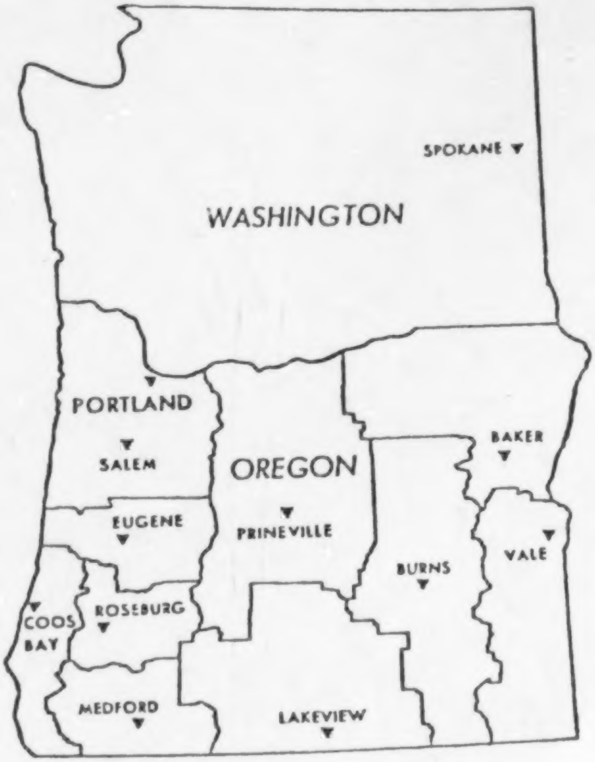
Wilderness Characteristics: Characteristics of wilderness described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Lands meeting the criteria will be identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Lands not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness review.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover all phases of the wilderness program of the BLM; they are (a) inventory, (b) study, and (c) reporting.

APPENDIX D

BLM OFFICES IN OREGON & WASHINGTON



BAKER DISTRICT - 523-6391
Gordon Staker, District Manager
P.O. Box 987
Baker, OR 97814

BURNS DISTRICT - 573-2071
L. Christian Vosler, District Manager
74 South Alvord Street
Burns, OR 97720

COOS BAY DISTRICT - 269-5880
Paul Sanger, District Manager
333 South Fourth Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420

EUGENE DISTRICT - 687-6650
Dwight Patton, District Manager
1255 Pearl Street
P.O. Box 10226
Eugene, OR 97401

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT - 947-2177
Richard Gerity, District Manager
1000 Ninth Street S.
P. O. Box 151
Lakeview, OR 97630

MEDFORD DISTRICT - 776-4174
George Francis, District Manager
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97501

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT - 447-4115
Paul Arrasmith, District Manager
185 East Fourth Street
P.O. Box 550
Prineville, OR 97754

ROSEBURG DISTRICT - 672-4491
James Hart, District Manager
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97470

SALEM DISTRICT - 399-5646
Edward Stauber, District Manager
3550 Liberty Road South
P. O. Box 3227
Salem, OR 97302

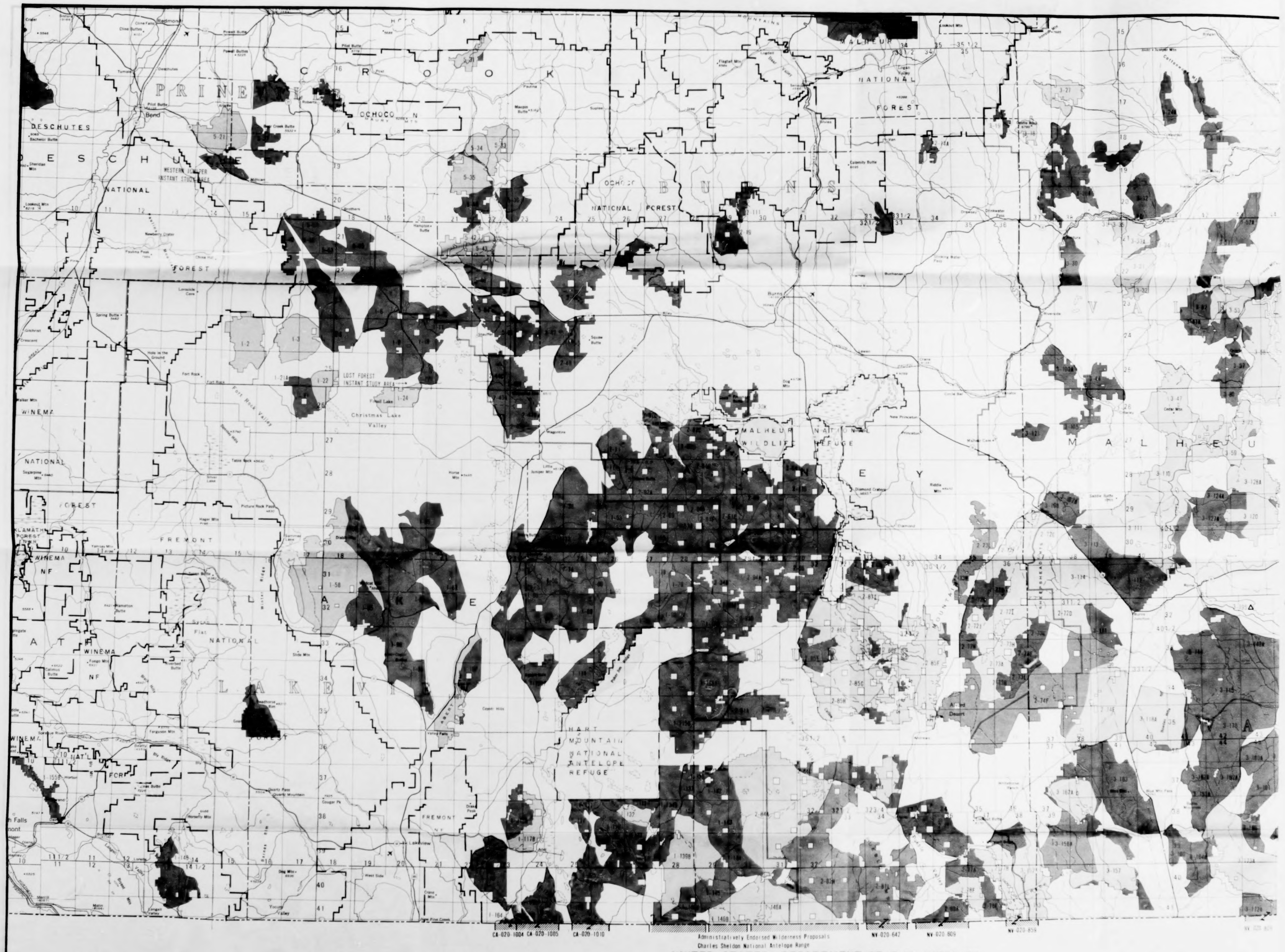
TILLAMOOK RESOURCE AREA - 842-7546
Everett Meier, Area Manager
6615 Officer's Row
Tillamook, OR 97141

SPOKANE DISTRICT - 509-456-2570
Roger Burwell, District Manager
Room 551, U.S. Courthouse
West 920 Riverside
Spokane, WA 99201

VALE DISTRICT - 473-3144
Fearl Parker, District Manager
365 "A" Street West
P.O. Box 700
Vale, OR 97918

OREGON STATE OFFICE - 231-6273
729 NE Oregon Street
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1981-796-235/25


CROOK
PRINEVILLE
DESCHUTES
OCHOCO N
OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST
HARNEY
MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST
MALHEUR
MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
WESTERN JUNIPER INSTANT STUDY AREA
LOST FOREST INSTANT STUDY AREA
Christmas Lake Valley
FREMONT
WINEMA NF
KLAMATH
LAKE
HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE
FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST
CA-020-1004
CA-020-1005
CA-020-1010
NV-020-642
NV-020-609
NV-020-859
Administratively Endorsed Wilderness Proposals
Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

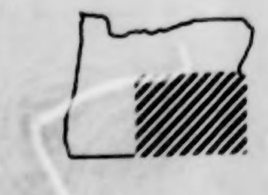
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

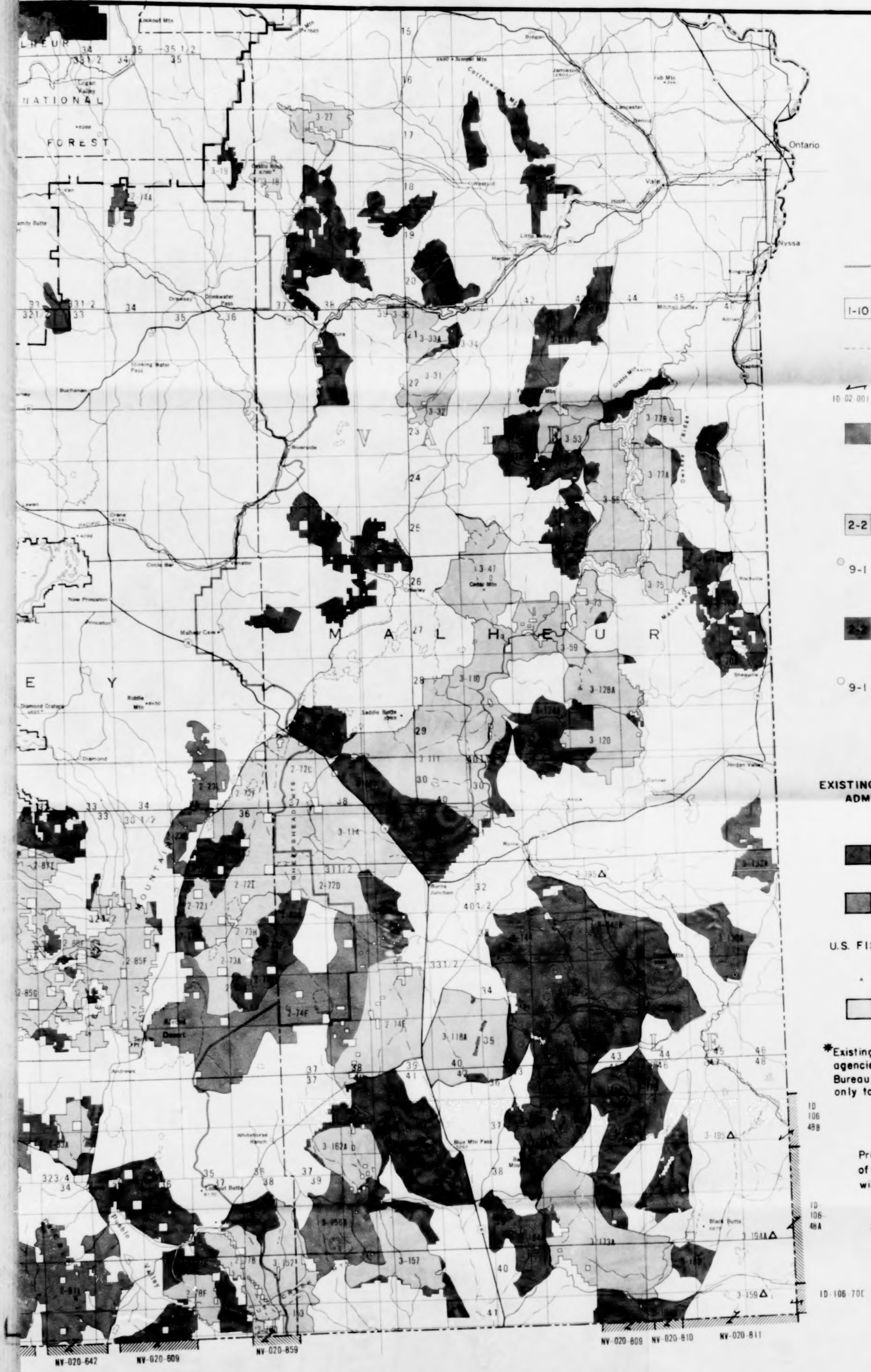
OREGON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS

NOVEMBER 1980





Ontario
Vale
Nyssa
V A L E
M A L H E U R
NATIONAL
FOREST
E Y
Jordan Valley
Rome
Crane
Riverside
Juntura
Drewsey
Harper
Adrian
Diamond
Andrews
Whitehorse Ranch
Blue Mtn Pass
Black Butte
3-27
3-33A
3-31
3-32
3-53
3-47
3-59
3-56
3-77A
3-77B
3-75
3-73
3-110
3-111
3-120
3-128A
3-114
3-118A
3-157
3-162A
3-195 △
3-194A △
3-159 △
ID-106-48B
ID-106-48A
ID-106-70C
NV-020-642
NV-020-609
NV-020-859
NV-020-809
NV-020-810
NV-020-811

LEGEND

—— BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY

1-10 BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT

- - - - ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT

10 02 001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT IN AN ADJACENT STATE

▨ EXISTING BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

FINAL DECISIONS

2-2 DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

○ 9-1 ISLAND DESIGNATED AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

2-2 AREA ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

○ 9-1 ISLAND OR ISLAND GROUP ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

■ Existing wilderness

▨ Area recommended by President for wilderness; recommended by USFS Regional Forester for wilderness; or scheduled for further planning to determine whether USFS will recommend as wilderness.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

▴ Existing wilderness island

☐ Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal

*Existing and potential wilderness areas administered by other agencies are shown only to provide a statewide overview. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory relates only to BLM administered land.

NOTE

Private and state lands located within the boundaries of wilderness inventory units are not included in the wilderness inventory.

△ The final decisions for Units 3-159, 3-194 and 3-195, have been deferred. Refer to the narrative report for explanations of the reasons for deferring these decisions.

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Scale: 1:500,000

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LEGEND

- BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 1-10 BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT
- ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT
- 10-02-001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT IN AN ADJACENT STATE
- ▨ EXISTING BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

FINAL DECISIONS

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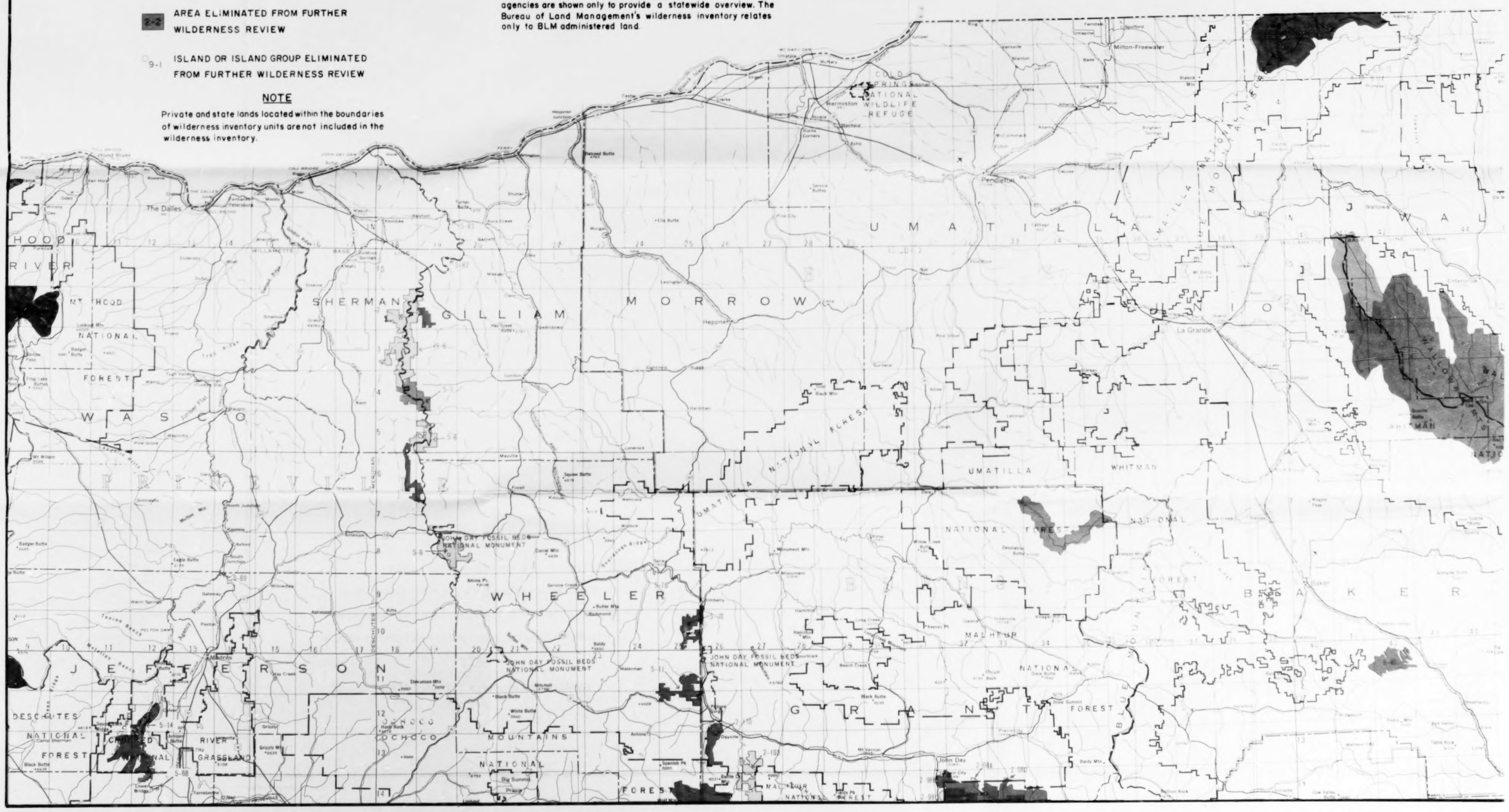
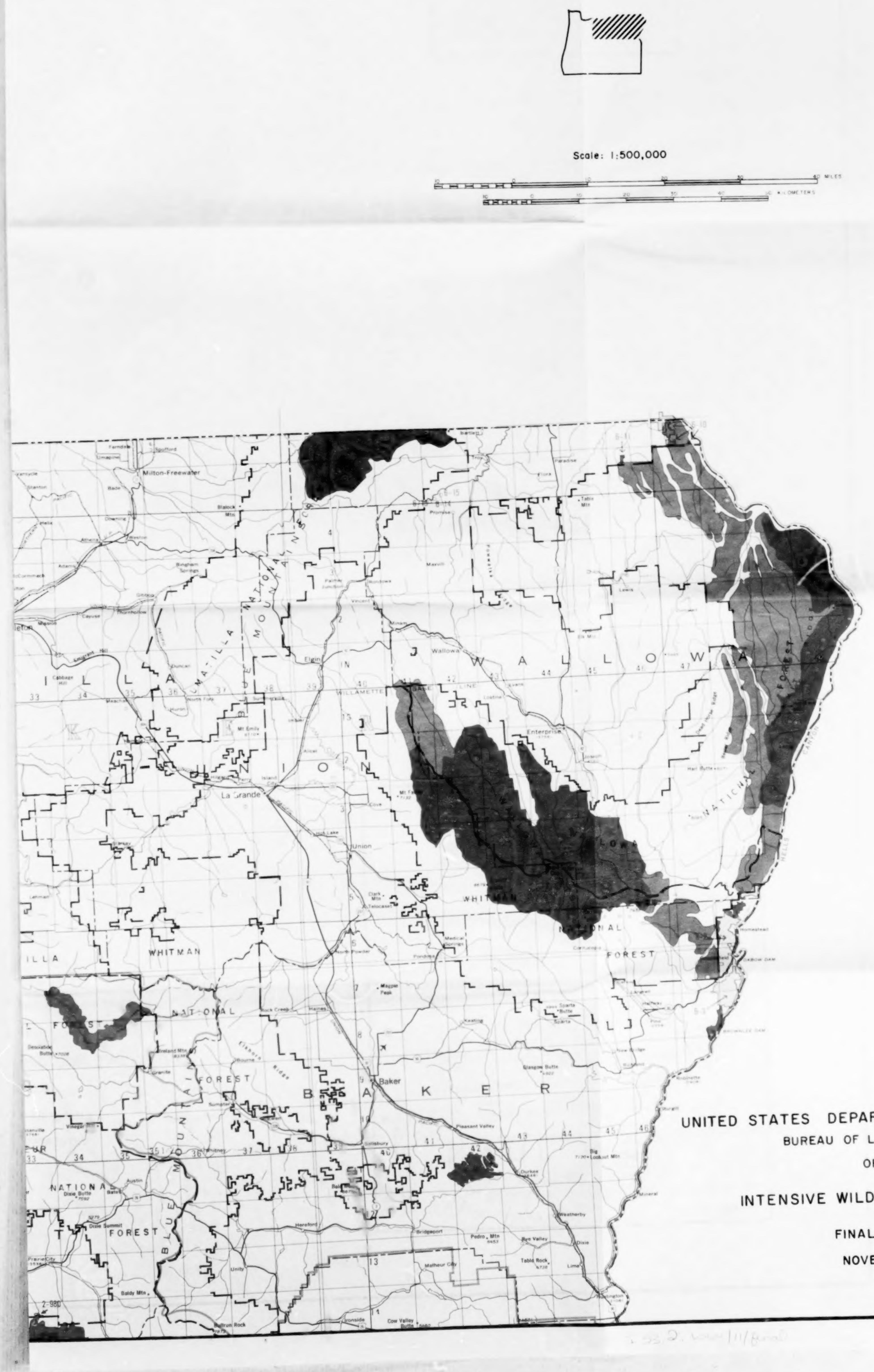

The Dalles
HOOD RIVER
MT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST
SHERMAN
GILLIAM
MORROW
UMATILLA
COLD SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Pendleton
La Grande
WASCO
UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST
WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST
JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
WHEELER
BAKER
JEFFERSON
DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST
CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND
OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST
GRANT
MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST


Scale: 1:500,000
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10 0 10 20 30 40 KILOMETERS
Milton-Freewater
La Grande
Elgin
Union
Wallowa
Enterprise
Baker
W A L L O W A
B A K E R
WHITMAN
NATIONAL
FOREST
NATIONAL FOREST
BLUE MOUNTAINS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

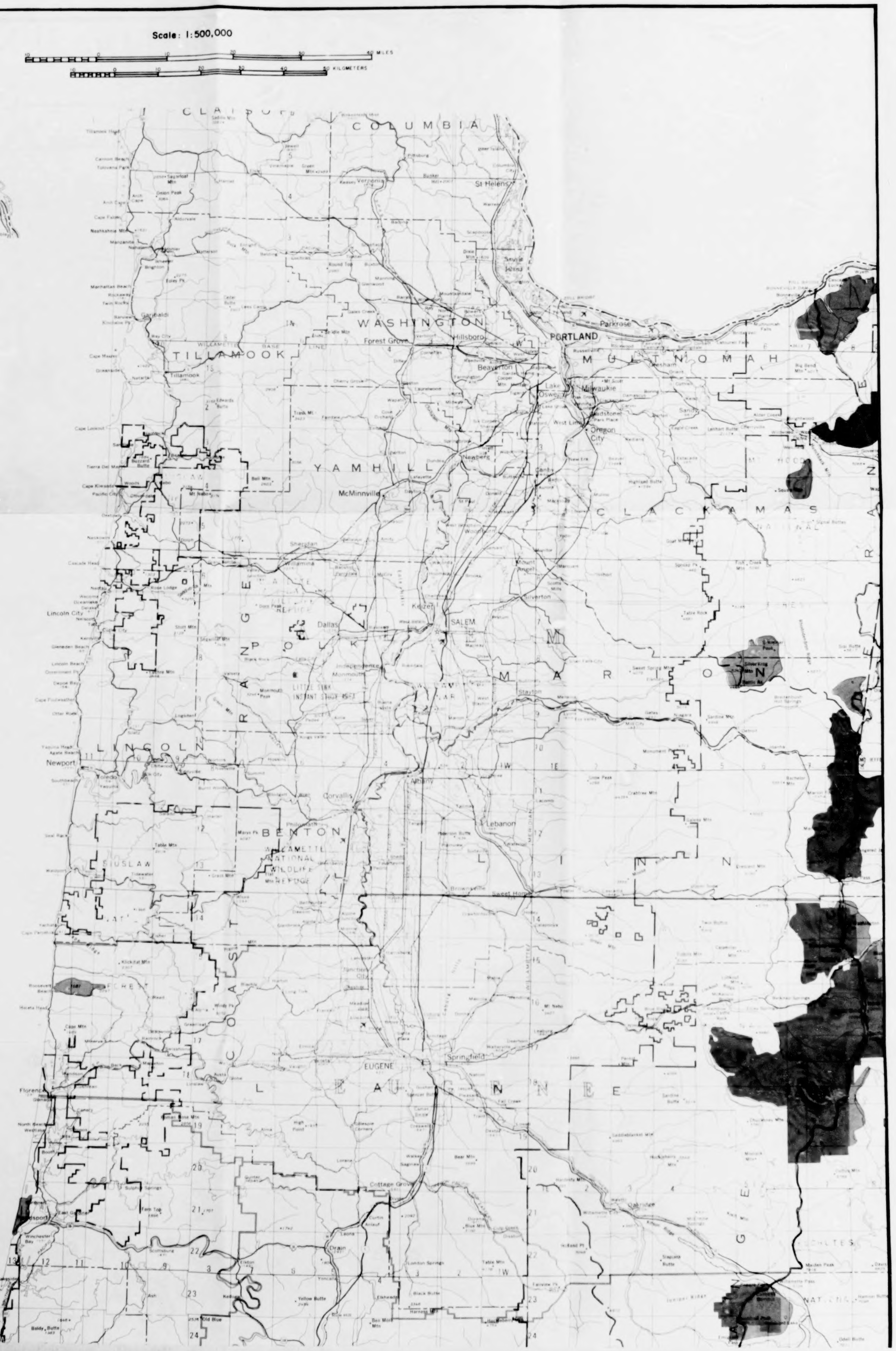
FINAL DECISIONS
NOVEMBER 1980

Astoria
Warrenton
Seaside

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS
NOVEMBER 1980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KILOMETERS
CLATSOP
COLUMBIA
St Helens
WASHINGTON
Hillsboro
Forest Grove
Beaverton
PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH
TILLAMOOK
Tillamook
YAMHILL
McMinnville
Newberg
Oregon City
CLACKAMAS
POLK
Dallas
SALEM
MARION
Stayton
Lincoln City
LINCOLN
Newport
Corvallis
BENTON
Lebanon
LINN
SIUSLAW
Florence
Springfield
EUGENE
LANE
Cottage Grove
DESCHUTES

LEGEND

— BLM DISTRICT BOUNDARY

1-10 BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY UNIT

- - - ROAD WITHIN INVENTORY UNIT

10 02 001 NUMBER OF ADJOINING BLM WILDERNESS UNIT IN ADJACENT STATES

■ EXISTING BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

FINAL DECISIONS

▨ DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

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ADMINISTERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES*

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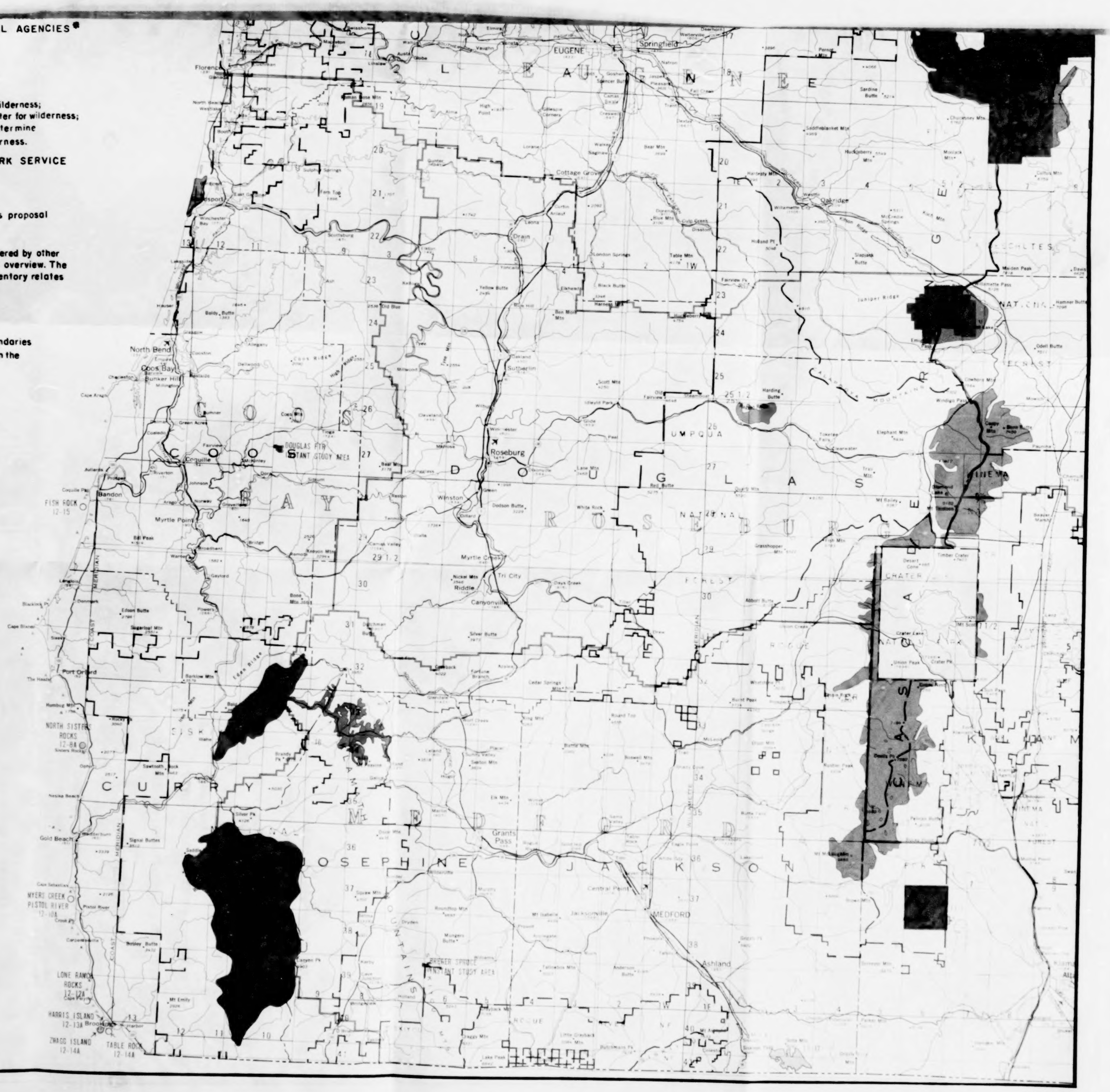
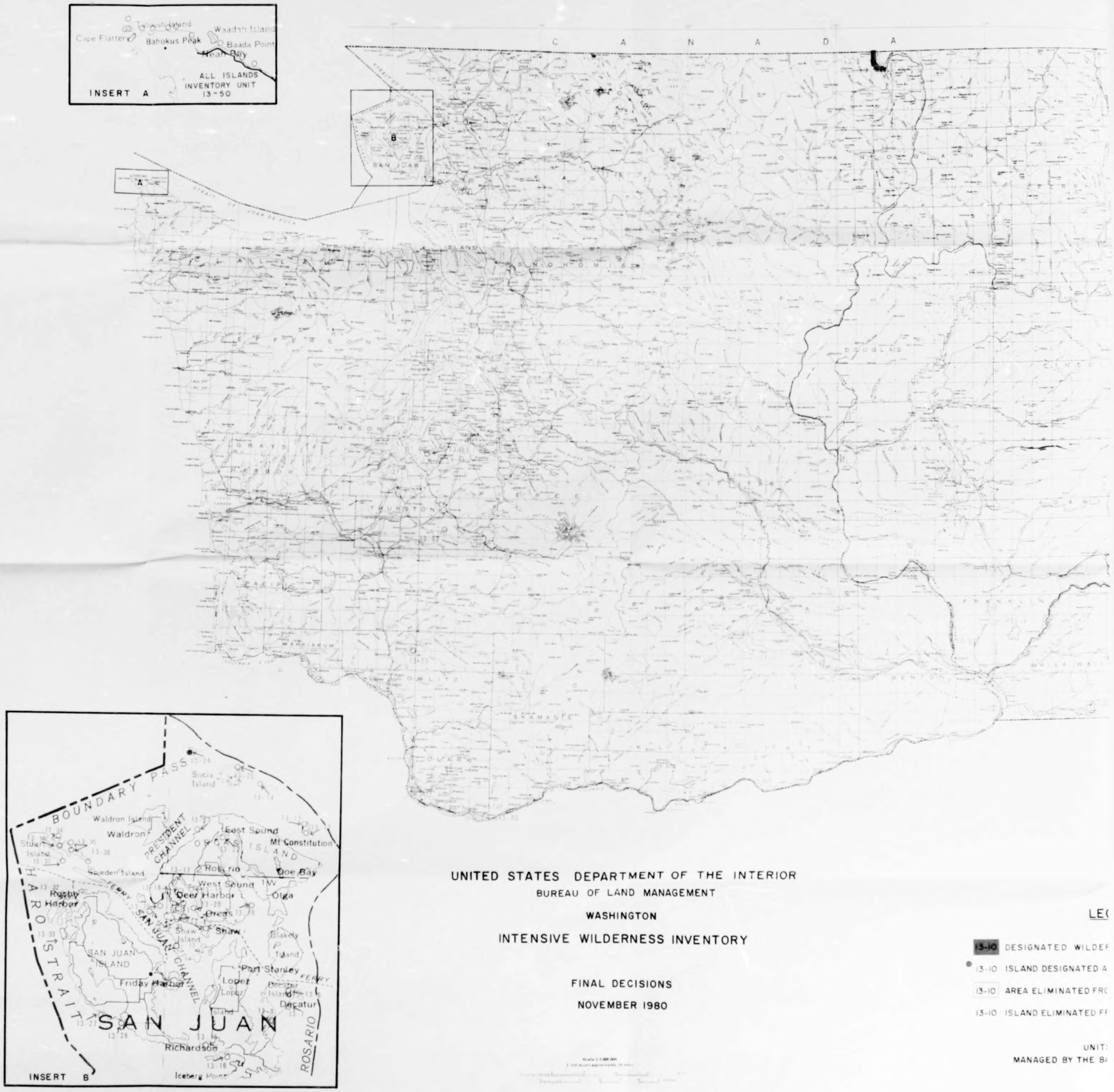

EUGENE
Springfield
Florence
LANE
Cottage Grove
Oakridge
DESCHUTES
North Bend
Coos Bay
COOS
DOUGLAS FIR PLANT STUDY AREA
Roseburg
UMPQUA
DOUGLAS
NATIONAL FOREST
Bandon
Myrtle Point
Winston
Riddle
Myrtle Creek
Canyonville
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK
ROGUE
Port Orford
FISH ROCK 12-15
NORTH SISTER ROCKS 12-8A
CURRY
Gold Beach
MYERS CREEK PISTOL RIVER 12-10
LONE RANCH ROCKS 12-12A
HARRIS ISLAND 12-13A
ZWAGG ISLAND 12-14A
TABLE ROCK 12-14B
Brookings
JOSEPHINE
Grants Pass
JACKSON
MEDFORD
Ashland
BREWER SPRUCE PLANT STUDY AREA
KLAMATH

☆GPO 1980 699-949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Bahokus Peak
Waadah Island
Baada Point
Neah Bay
ALL ISLANDS INVENTORY UNIT 13-50
INSERT A
C A N A D A
A
B
SAN JUAN
DOUGLAS
THURSTON
BOUNDARY PASS
Sucia Island
Waldron Island
Waldron
PRESIDENT CHANNEL
East Sound
Mt Constitution
ORCAS ISLAND
Stuart Island
Spieden Island
Rosario
Doe Bay
West Sound
Olga
Roche Harbor
Deer Harbor
Orcas
HARO STRAIT
SAN JUAN CHANNEL
Shaw Island
Shaw
Blakely Island
SAN JUAN ISLAND
Friday Harbor
Port Stanley
Lopez
Decatur Island
Decatur
FERRY
SAN JUAN
Richardson
ROSARIO
Iceberg Point
INSERT B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISIONS

NOVEMBER 1980

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● 13-10	ISLAND DESIGNATED A
13-10	AREA ELIMINATED FRO
13-10	ISLAND ELIMINATED FF

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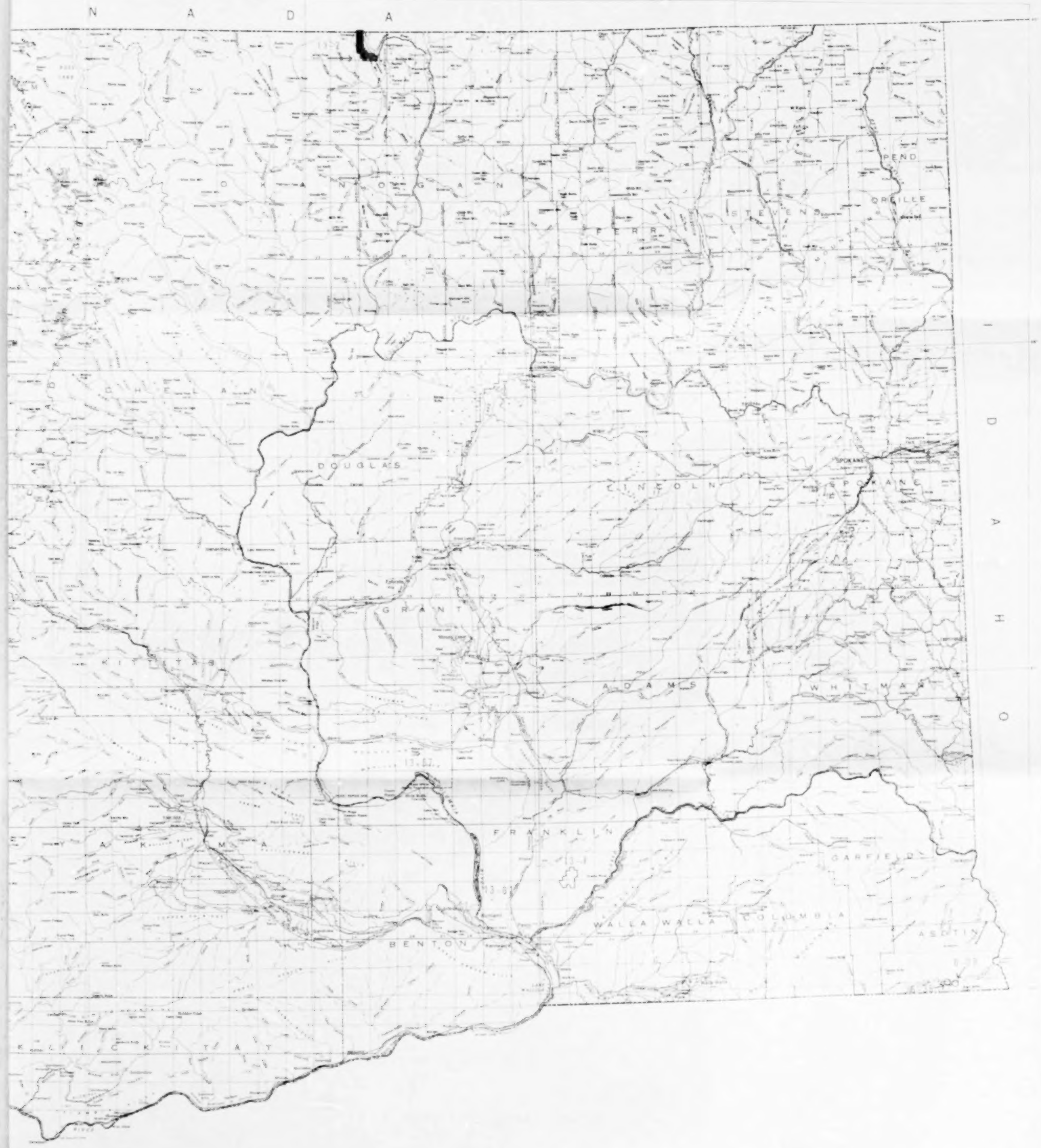
N A D A
I D A H O
PEND OREILLE
STEVENS
FERRY
DOUGLAS
LINCOLN
SPOKANE
GRANT
ADAMS
WHITMAN
KITTITAS
YAKIMA
FRANKLIN
GARFIELD
WALLA WALLA
COLUMBIA
ASOTIN
BENTON
KLICKITAT

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▇ DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

● 13-10 ISLAND DESIGNATED AS A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

☐ 13-10 AREA ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

○ 13-10 ISLAND ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS REVIEW

NOTE

UNITS 6-3886-39
MANAGED BY THE BAKER OREGON DISTRICT OFFICE

☆ GPO 1980 699-949